

## Made To Worship

### - *Psalm 63:1-8*

- **When I mention the word Worship, what do you think about?**
- **Worship: an inward feeling and outward action that reflects the worth of God.**
- **The inscription at the title of this Psalm informs us that David was in "the wilderness of Judah" when he wrote this psalm, suggesting that it was probably during Absalom's rebellion where David was fleeing from him.**
  - David was going through one of those rough times in his life.
    - He had been driven from the throne by Absalom, had headed out across the northern edge of the wilderness of Judea, and was far from the sanctuary in Jerusalem, which had become the center of his life.
    - During this difficult time, he had been strengthening his soul in God. He was knocked down, he had seen some rough days, but it was going to take more than the threats of men & the loss of a throne to knock him out. His life was hid in God.
  - As you read this Psalm though, it is not a Psalm of terror or fear but instead one of worship & praise unto God.
- **READ SCRIPTURE**
- **As I began reading this Psalm, my heart was convicted b/c in a day where we look for reasons not to come to church & not to praise God even when we do come, I see a man who was so devoted to God that even in a time of despair, David was cut off from the worship of God in the tabernacle, and he found himself yearning to be in the presence of God, just to worship Him.**
  - Church, this ought to be our passion as we come into the presence of God.
    - We don't need to worry about what others might think or say.
    - Not worried about the regret & mistakes of the past & allow them to stand in the way of our worship.
    - We shouldn't even allow the discomforts & the discouragements of this life to disrupt our praise & worship unto the Lord.
  - David is in the wilderness, but he did not look around in fear or complain at the discomforts and dangers of the wilderness.
  - Instead, he looked up to the Lord and reaffirmed his faith and love to Him.
  - In an hour when David might have been discouraged, he was excited about God, and in a place where there was no sanctuary, David reached out by faith and received new strength from the Lord.
- **This morning as we have gathered together in worship & praise, let us not look at the circumstances of this life or our current plight & allow it to dictate whether we worship God or not. He and He alone is worthy of our worship & our praise!**
  - Not just today,
  - Not just this hour,
  - But in EVERY moment of our lives we should praise the Lord.
- I. **David's Passion for God (vv.1-2, 8)**
  - a. **His Relationship to God (vv.1, 8)**

- Before there can be any worship or praise, there first must be a relationship with God. David had long ago nailed that down & affirmed his faith in the One True God.
  - i. ***The confession of loyalty (v.1). "Thou art my God".*** The psalmist unashamedly confesses that the true God is his God.
    - 1. Here David was in the desert, he was hungry and thirsty, but his deepest desires were spiritual, not physical. Though he was going through a difficult time & under duress, this had become a time of worship for David.
    - 2. In a time where he needed God in his life, he didn't see God as just the Creator or the God of Heavens or the God of Israel. He saw Him as a Personal God.
      - a. If worship is ever going to get real & personal in our lives, God must first get personal with us!
      - b. You can't just know about God & expect to be able to worship Him. We have to know Him in a personal way!
  - ii. ***The sincerity in loyalty (v.8). "My soul followeth hard after thee".***
    - 1. The words translated, "followeth hard" means to be glued to something, to cleave tenaciously to something.
    - 2. In other words, God is not Someone that he has just committed his Sundays to or that he hopes to see in Heaven one day. God is a personal God to David.
      - a. God has been personal as he watched his father's sheep,
      - b. As he fought the giant,
      - c. As he rose in power in the kingdom,
      - d. And yes, even as he made some huge mistakes in his life.
    - 3. Because God had been faithful to him, David purposed in his heart that he would cling to God regardless of what or whom may come his way.
- b. **His Longing for God (v.1)**
  - *"Early will I seek thee... my soul thirsteth for thee... my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is".* The physical conditions of the wilderness are brutal physically on his body, but what he desires more than anything is a moment of God's presence.
    - Once David had the presence of God in his life, he never got over it. Church, once we get a hold of God & we are in His presence & we enjoy His fellowship for a little while, I hope we never get over it.
    - i. ***The desire in the longing. "My soul thirsteth for thee."*** Thirst is still one of the greatest desires that we have in our human life. It describes one of our most basic needs & it shows David's passion for the Lord. Few people thirst for God as they thirst for the things of the world.
    - ii. ***The devotion in the longing. "My flesh longeth for thee."*** The psalmist wants ("longeth" means to pine, yearn intensely) to be in church physically, not just in the spirit.
    - iii. ***The displacement for the longing. "In a dry and thirsty land, where no water is."*** The psalmist's passion for God is enhanced by his location away from the opportunity to worship.

1. Here is the beauty of our worship today. We don't have to be in a sanctuary or wait until Sunday. Through the work of Christ & the gift of the Holy Spirit, we have the privilege of worship any & every day.

## II. David's Praise for God (vv.3-8)

- The middle section of this psalm is given to the praising of God. It speaks well of the psalmist that in spite of his bad circumstances—in the wilderness, fleeing Absalom, his life is in danger—he still gives praise to God. His devotion to God was obviously real.

### a. The Means of His Praise (vv.3-5)

- o The psalmist praised God in two distinct ways.
  - i. **The expression of his praise.** *"My lips shall praise thee... my mouth shall praise thee"*. David's mouth was filled with praise for God. In a day where our minds are consumed with so much to talk about, far too many times we fail to lift up our Heavenly Father as we should.
    1. Psalm 107:2 – “Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;”
  - ii. **The action in the praise.** *"I will lift up my hands in thy name"* (v.4). Some still do this today although much of this action is more outward than inward. When the heart is praising God, it often shows in physical actions.

### b. The Moment of His Praise (v.4)

- o *"Thus will I bless thee while I live"*. The moment of praise gives us two lessons.
  - i. **The obligation to praise.** *"Thus."* This word speaks of the obligation for praise. We have much obligation to praise God. It's not a question of “why should we praise Him?”, instead we should be asking, “Why not?” For all that God has done for us, this should be our reason to praise Him.
  - ii. **The opportunity to praise.** *"While I live."* Praise God while you have the opportunity.
    1. Worship services give you an opportunity.
    2. Spiritual service involves opportunity.
    3. Living your life in total surrender to Him gives you the opportunity to worship.

### c. The Motive for His Praise (vv.3,5,7,8)

- o The psalmist gives some good motives/reasons for praising God.
  - i. **The superiority of God.** *"Thy lovingkindness is better than life"* (v.3). The psalmist wisely recognizes spiritual blessing as better than any other blessing.
  - ii. **The satisfaction in God.** *"My soul shall be satisfied"* (v.5). The world does not satisfy, but God does.
    1. The great barrier to worship among God's people is not that we are always seeking our own satisfaction, but that our seeking is so weak and half-hearted that “we settle for little sips at broken cisterns when the fountain of life is just over the next hill”.
    2. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling around with the things of this world when God has offered us infinite joy. We trade the opportunity to sit at the King's table for the mud pies this world has to offer. We are far too easily pleased.
    3. Our desire for happiness is too weak. We have settled for a home, a family, a few friends, a job, a TV and microwave, and a yearly vacation. We have

accustomed ourselves to such small, unexciting, short-lived, inadequate pleasure that our capacity for joy has shriveled. And therefore our worship has shriveled.

4. David understands that there is NO true satisfaction outside of the realm of a relationship with God.
- iii. ***The sustaining by God.*** "*Thou hast been my help*" (v.7). God has helped the psalmist in the past and that promotes praise.
    1. It was because Israel forgot what God did that they rebelled and disobeyed Him
  - iv. ***The support from God.*** "*Thy right hand upholdeth me*" (v.8). God is recognized as the One Who supports us in our walk of faith.
- d. **The Meditation for His Praise (v.6)**
- o "*I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches*". The psalmist confesses that he meditates upon God. Not many are doing that today.
    - i. ***The devotion in the meditation.*** "*I remember thee... meditate on thee.*" David's mind is fixed on God. When we are in love with someone, they occupy our thoughts. When we are concerned about something, it occupies our thoughts. The psalmist was in love with God, thus God occupied his thoughts. This shows his great devotion to the Lord.
    - ii. ***The darkness in the meditation.*** "*Upon my bed... in the night watches.*" When his mind was free from distractions of the day, he thought about God.
- e. **The Joy In His Praise (vv.5-7)**
- o Praising God was associated with joy and rejoicing.
    - i. ***Even in darkness.*** "*In the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice*" (v.7). Under God's wings is a place of peace and protection and that is a place of great joy.
    - ii. ***Praise = Joy.*** "*Joyful lips... rejoice*" (vv.5, 7). Praising God produces joy. If you are down and discouraged, the best medicine is to praise God. David was fleeing Absalom at the time of this psalm. This was a tough time for him, but praising God gave him joy anyway.
      1. I Peter 4:11 – "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."