

October 22, 2017

Series: Authentic: Living Life through the Psalms

Title: In the Dry Places

Text: Psalms 63:1-11 NLT

Text (New Living Translation)

O God, you are my God; **I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.** ²I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory. ³Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you! ⁴I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer. ⁵**You satisfy me more than the richest feast.** I will praise you with songs of joy. ⁶I lie awake thinking of you, meditating on you through the night. ⁷Because **you are my helper,** I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings. ⁸I cling to you; **your strong right hand holds me securely.** ⁹But those plotting to destroy me will come to ruin. They will go down into the depths of the earth. ¹⁰They will die by the sword and become the food of jackals. ¹¹But the king will rejoice in God. All who swear to tell the truth will praise him, while liars will be silenced.

Introduction

This is a modern picture of the wilderness of Judah. It is a place that is dry with deep ravines; rocky terrain; barren grades with few vegetation. Miles and miles of desolate land, with an occasional camel, a shepherd with his flock.

Judah's wilderness is bleak, inhospitable, stark and harsh and has been unchanged for thousands of years.

There are a couple of possibilities for the context of this Psalm by David. First when he was fleeing from Saul (1 Sam. 23:15) he spent

much time in the Judean wilderness. Second, is when David was fleeing from Absalom, his son (2 Sam. 15-16)

Dry seasons, have you ever had one? Most of us have and do! They are usually brought on as a result of some circumstance (either ordained by God or invited in by our own decisions and behavior).

What are dry seasons (spiritually speaking)?

1. They are times when you feel disconnected from a vibrant relationship with God and with His people.
2. They can also be times of testing (not tempting) by God to bring us to a place where we seek Him and His will to be the pursuit of our lives.

If it's because of sin or disobedience, you're dry because you feel distant from God.

If it's because of testing, he has you in a place of isolation so that you can get greater clarity on His will for your life.

They can occur because of our sin or our sanctification. No matter the reason, it happens to us all and God has a plan for our good.

- I. **One thing you must Do...v.1-"I search for you..."**
 - The fact that you are experiencing dryness or aloneness or feeling isolated demand that you do this.
 - In every season of dryness that I've had in my life, this was demanded of me.
 - Your heart longs for this to happen
 - **Search: God wants to be sought after with our whole hearts!**

- **What's necessary in the search?**
 - **Repent** (Get things right with God)
 - **Renew** (Your mind through His Word, Prayer, Be intentional in your communion with Him, evaluate your priorities – clear the slate!)
 - **Re-view** (Look at where you've been and how far you've come)
 - **Re-assess** (Are you doing the right things? Get up and serve someone else? Get busy doing the right things!)

Point: *This is about you and God and nobody else. This is the reason, others can't pull you out of a dry season.*

II. **One thing you must remember...V.5-“You satisfy me...”**

- What you must remember is the key, to all of real life!
- You can never get out of a cycle of dryness until you remember this and know this from the depths of your soul!
- It takes years for most of us to realize this ...
- Most people go through numerous cycles of dryness because they don't realize or remember this important thing!
- ***He is the only one who can satisfy the longings of the heart/soul.***
v. 5 - ***You satisfy (to be filled, to have enough) me more than the richest feast.*** I will praise you with songs of joy.
- Some longings, God put in us and they are a part of our frame in terms of how He created us.

- 7 Longings of the Human Heart
 - Longing to Be Enjoyed by God
 - Longing for Fascination
 - Longing for Beauty
 - Longing for Greatness
 - Longing for Intimacy without Shame
 - Longing to be Wholehearted
 - Longing to Make a Deep and Lasting Impact

It is never meant for you to experience dryness (empty, isolated and unfulfilled) all the days of your life. Some people perpetually live in this place.

It's sad but true, some people you can never move them out of this cycle. In fact, if you're not careful they will pull you in before you ever pull them out. "Cut and run" because they don't want out!

How much of your life/day do you live “frustrated?”

(People who have Internal turmoil are generally bitter, negative, critical, looking for something that needs to be corrected in you and in others, expecting something to go wrong!)

Here's what the Word says ... **English Standard Version (ESV)**

- **Psalm 107:9** “**For he satisfies the longing soul**, and the hungry soul he fills with good things.”
- **Isaiah 58:11** “And the Lord will guide you continually and **satisfy your desire in scorched places and make your bones strong**; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.”
- **Jeremiah 31:25** “**For I will satisfy the weary soul**, and every languishing soul I will replenish.”
- **Psalm 91:16** “**With long life I will satisfy him** and show him my salvation.” (v.14 - Those who set their love on Him)

III. One thing you must believe ...V.8- “He is the one who keeps you SECURE!”

a. He is my helper and keeper (v. 7, 8) NLT

⁷ Because **you are my helper**, I sing for joy in the shadow of your wings. ⁸ I cling to you; **your strong right hand holds me securely**.

i. The enemy’s plan is to destroy (v.9)

-Take/Destroy our Peace of Mind

-Take/Destroy our Purpose

- Distraction is an attack on your purpose and call;
- Distraction is an attraction to your soul (mind, will and emotions);
- Distraction is an action against your traction to running your race.

ii. God’s plan is for us, is to rejoice (v.11)

Psalms 121:1-8 NLT –

1) I look up to the mountains— does my help come from there? 2) **My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth!** 3) He will not let you stumble; the one who watches over you will not slumber. 4) Indeed, he who watches over Israel never slumbers or sleeps. 5) **The LORD himself watches over you! The LORD stands beside you as your protective shade.** 6) The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon at night. 7) **The LORD keeps you from all harm and watches over your life.** 8) The LORD keeps watch over you as you come and go, both now and forever.

-Rejoice as a lifestyle, not just because of an Event!

*-Rejoice because of what **has happened!***

*-Rejoice because of what **is happening!***

*-Rejoice because of what **will happen!***

Conclusion:

You may go in, but you will come out!