

Psalm 63-66 – Thursday, December 13th, 2018

Psalm 63 -- A Psalm of David When He Was in the Wilderness of Judah. 1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water. 2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. 3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You. 4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. 5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips. 6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches. 7 Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. 8 My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me. 9 But those who seek my life, to destroy it, Shall go into the lower parts of the earth. 10 They shall fall by the sword; They shall be a portion for jackals. 11 But the king shall rejoice in God; Everyone who swears by Him shall glory; But the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.

- In order to better understand this Psalm of David, we need to know a bit of the backstory as it relates to this season in his life.
- First, David has fled to the Wilderness of Judah to escape his son Absalom who has formed a coup and seeks to kill his father.
- In a sense, David has nothing such that he has lost everything at this point in his life, which is why he has and clings to his God.

As one so aptly said it, "You'll never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have."

Psalm 64 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. 1 Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation; Preserve my life from fear of the enemy. 2 Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity, 3 Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words, 4 That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear. 5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, "Who will see them?" 6 They devise iniquities: "We have perfected a shrewd scheme." Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep. 7 But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; Suddenly they shall be wounded. 8 So He will make them stumble over their own tongue; All who see them shall flee away. 9 All men shall fear, And shall declare the work of God; For they shall wisely consider His doing. 10 The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.

- What I love about Psalm 64 is the brutal honesty on David's part concerning the fear he has in his heart as he cries out to God.
- Thankfully, like with many of the other Psalms, David does not remain in this place of fear, as we see by the end of the Psalm.
- This because, David in praying to the Lord and meditating on the Word of the Lord, has a much-needed change of perspective.

- If you're anything like me and I suspect that you are, it's hard to see someone like David, who was such a warrior, given to fear.
- The truth of the matter is David is in good company with many mighty men of God who were also gripped in a paralyzing fear.
- Replete throughout the pages of Holy Writ, we have detailed accounts of how strong courageous we're able to overcome fear.

- One the best examples is the Apostle Paul who, who like David is seen as living a life untouched by fear and discouragement.
- In Acts 18:9-10, Paul is so full of fear that the Lord reveals Himself to him in a vision one night and tells him; "do not be afraid."
- In 2 Corinthians 1:8 Paul says he was burdened beyond measure and above strength, so much so, he despaired even of life.

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

Psalm 65 -- To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. A Song. 1 Praise is awaiting You, O God, in Zion; And to You the vow shall be performed. 2 O You who hear prayer, To You all flesh will come. 3 Iniquities prevail against me; As for our transgressions, You will provide atonement for them. 4 Blessed is the man You choose, And cause to approach You, That he may dwell in Your courts. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, Of Your holy temple. 5 By awesome deeds in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation, You who are the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of the far-off seas; 6 Who established the mountains by His strength, Being clothed with power; 7 You who still the noise of the seas, The noise of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples. 8 They also who dwell in the farthest parts are afraid of Your signs; You make the outgoings of the morning and evening rejoice. 9 You visit the earth and water it, You greatly enrich it; The river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, For so You have prepared it. 10 You water its ridges abundantly, You settle its furrows; You make it soft with showers, You bless its growth. 11 You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip with abundance. 12 They drop on the pastures of the wilderness, And the little hills rejoice on every side. 13 The pastures are clothed with flocks; The valleys also are covered with grain; They shout for joy, they also sing.

- Psalm 65 is an interesting Psalm for a number of reasons not the least of which is it's a magnificent song of praise and worship.
- What's interesting to me is that David sort of begins the Psalm with a silent, even reverent praise then ends with a shout of joy.
- I point that out because, to me, it speaks to those times when our worship is a holy hush, as it were, instead of a shout of joy.

Of this silent praise, G. Campbell Morgan wrote, "It is the true attitude of worship. Reverent silence preparing for, and issuing in, adoring praise. ...The way into the silence of praise is described. God chooses, and causes to approach. The man so conducted dwells in the courts of God, and is satisfied with the goodness of His house."

Psalm 66 -- To the Chief Musician. A Song. A Psalm. 1 Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! 2 Sing out the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious. 3 Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power Your enemies shall submit themselves to You. 4 All the earth shall worship You And sing praises to You; They shall sing praises to Your name." Selah 5 Come and see the works of God; He is awesome in His doing toward the sons of men. 6 He turned the sea into dry land; They went through the river on foot. There we will rejoice in Him. 7 He rules by His power forever; His eyes observe the nations; Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah 8 Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard, 9 Who keeps our soul among the living, And does not allow our feet to be moved. 10 For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. 11 You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. 12 You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment. 13 I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows, 14 Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble. 15 I will offer You burnt sacrifices of fat animals, With the sweet aroma of rams; I will offer bulls with goats. Selah 16 Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul. 17 I cried to Him with my mouth, And He was extolled with my tongue. 18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear. 19 But certainly God has heard me; He has attended to the voice of my prayer. 20 Blessed be God, Who has not turned away my prayer, Nor His mercy from me!

- While there is some debate as to who the author of this Psalm is, it's believed by some that it was written by King Hezekiah.
- The reason being is the Psalm seems to reference the Lord delivering the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the Assyrian army.
- Regardless of whether or not Hezekiah wrote it, the take away is a very powerful one as it relates to God delivering His people.