Feb. 17, 2019 p.m.

WHEN GOD IS ALL WE WANT

Reading: **Psalm 63**

I continue to read through the Psalms, looking for those that I think can help some get through difficult times. “There’s a lot of hurting people.” (Marlin) So tonight, let’s spend some time with **Psalm 63**. {I thought I would combine it with **Psalm 61** and **62** but when I started thinking that I might have preached about those, I went back to check, and yes, I did in March 2014 and Jan. 2015. You remember those, don’t you? ☺}

From the sermon on **Psalm 61**, Jan. 18, 2015

* I’ve asked in times past, “Do we pray like David?”
* I think it is misleading to suggest that David prayed like this every day.
* There are 150 Psalms and David wrote about 75-80 of them.
* How old did he live to be? (70 - 2 Sam. 5:4) (18250 days from age 20-70)
* Every day of his life was not the same anymore than ours will be. (joy, sadness, pain, disappointments, tragedies, loss, enemies, sickness)
* We will not pray like this every day. We won’t always be this spiritual.

Was it easier for David to think these thoughts and pray these prayers than it is for us?

Was he not as busy as we are? Did he not have as many problems as we have to face?

**Some reminders about David’s life:**

* The transition of leadership didn’t go smoothly, to say the least. (**1 Sam. 16-31**)
* Stressful and confusing – played music to sooth Saul’s depressed spirit – friendship with Saul’s son – Saul pursuing him relentlessly, trying to kill him – Saul and Jonathan killed in battle with the Philistines. Then Saul’s family tried to keep the throne.
* The sin with Bathsheba and the consequences. Some problems are self-inflicted.
* Conflicts – Saul’s family, other nations, his commanders at odds, his own children rebelling, and enemies?! When did he find himself in the desert with no water?
* The authorship and occasion of this psalm are made certain by the fact that the author was a king ([Psalms 63:11](https://www.studylight.org/desk/index.cgi?q1=Psalms+63:11&t1=en_nas)), who was temporarily denied access to the tabernacle in Jerusalem, and who cried out to God from a parched desert. These conditions point unerringly to King David during his flight through the wilderness of Judea from the enmity of Absalom.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* But David knew he was going to be king when he was being pursued by Saul.

**When David was in the desert, what did he do? He talked to God.**

* He sought Him, he thirst for Him, he longed for Him body and soul. ***(1)***
* He was all alone even though others were with him. (**2 Sam. 15**)
* We can encourage and support but there are times God will be all we need.
* He looked for God in His sanctuary to see His power and glory. ***(2-5)***
* David loved the Lord’s house – the worship – the honor – the glory.
* But he was away from the tabernacle while in the wilderness. He couldn’t go to church.
* He could still praise God with his lips – he could sing with joy and bless his God.
* David worshiped – lifted up his hand to His name – lifted up holy hands.
* “The lifting of the hands was not only the common posture of prayer among the ancient Hebrews, it was especially appropriate for praise. It displayed the anticipation of gratefully receiving from God, and the sense of surrender to Him.”[[2]](#footnote-2)
* He could know God’s power and glory – He still knew God’s word – the tabernacle was built according to the pattern – God’s promises for the king and the nation – David loved God’s word – He loved His law. He loved the stories of God when God showed His power and glory to Israel in times past. The word was in his heart.
* To David, the Lord’s lovingkindness was better than life itself – so he praised Him.
* He hungered and thirsted for God’s righteousness and was filled. (soul was satisfied)
* *“I meditate on You in the night watches.”* ***(6-8)***
* How many sleepless nights did David have out in the wilderness. Who did He think of when He awoke in the middle of the night? What did he think about?
* *“Because You have been my help”*
* David remembered when God had helped him in times past.
* Faith is what sees us through the dark times.
* Trust in God because of what He’s already done.
* He rejoiced in the shadow of God’s wings – His protection and care.
* God would judge those who sought David’s life. ***(9-11)***
* They would *fall by the sword*.
* 20,000 of Absalom’s men fell by the sword before David’s army. (**2 Sam. 18:7**)
* Is it right for us to think about our enemies being judged by a righteous God?
* Paul knew that men like Alexander would be repaid by the Lord. (**2 Tim. 4:14**)
* What should our attitude be? Should we rejoice? Should we pray for them to fall by the sword? Be shot by an arrow? (**64:7**) *“Do not let the rebellious exalt themselves.”* (**66:7**) Should we pray that bad things happen to the enemies of truth and righteousness? For example, should we pray that those involved in recent abortion decisions find themselves going through horrible things, maybe even death?
* What about what our Lord taught in the sermon on the mount? (**Matt. 5:38-45**) Can we not hope that justice will be served when it comes to evil doers and the laws of the land, including the death penalty? Only God can have a sense of perfect justice. Our emotions get in the way too often. Don’t take personal vengeance. Let God do that.
* David trusted in God’s judgment in God’s time.
* He did not rejoice in the death of Saul or Absalom.

**What do we do when we are in the desert?**

* Especially remember the first three points.
* But when you’re there because of your enemies, then consider point number four as well.

May we have days in which we will know that God is all we want

because we’ve learned that He’s all we need.

1. https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/psalms-63.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/psalm-63/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)