Psalm 63 “A Soul in God’s Grip”

**BIG IDEA: We’re held firmly in God’s grip when we desire God and cling to him above all else.**

**1) INTRO**

• Technically summer now though it doesn’t feel like it – grad

• What are your plans?

• Vacation or holiday? Family visits? Friends? Job?

• The question’s essentially “what do you desire this summer?”

• Lake, beach, work, camp, hike, garden, nap, read, rest

• What do we desire? This summer? Long-term goals? Life?

• Big questions, what we’re facing today

• What do we desire? What do we long for? What…or *who* captures our hearts?

• Love God more? Cherish God? JC capture us?

• BIG IDEA

**PRAY**

**2) vv1-4 - INTRO**

• This Psalm is a lament – written by King David

• Laments contain: 1) a complaint, 2) expression of confidence in the Lord’s ability to help, and 3) anticipation of public praise

• Background helps

• David – wilderness, fleeing Saul or Absalom

• v11 “king”

• Trouble/on the run/fleeing…confidence in God

• BIG IDEA

• **READ vv1-4**

• “O God” same as YHWH…the covenantally faithful God

• He earnestly seeks after God

• “early”…“dawn”…diligent search/eagerness

• Thirsting for God & fainting with desire for God

• The dry and barren conditions of the wilderness of Judah

• Not like BC…Cathedral Grove

• God’s supernatural work to have this attitude/heart/desire…seek

• When God changes us, our whole being desires him…our “soul[s] thirst for [him]”

• “soul” - not like a mind/brain, arm, heart, ear

• David Hansen – “the word ‘soul’ denotes the irreducible spiritual self”

• Our whole being – all that we are – in earnest, eager longing for God

• Desperately desiring God…our whole being dry/parched

• Time you were starving or desperately needing water

• Matt 5:6 – hunger thirst righteous…, satisfied

• May we…satisfied only in him

• In v2 b/c he misses God…corporate worship

• God’s goodness and power and glory in corporate worship

• Private worship is important, but corporate worship is essential as it’s God’s working in us in community

• Heb 10:25 – not neglect meeting together

• Enjoying God together with each other, encouraging, challenging, accountable, loving, reminding each other

• David’s missing this time…wants Isaiah 6 experience again

• He’s wanting to be back worshiping…in the sanctuary

• Do we share the same sentiment as David here? Is this our attitude?

• Summer season

• Feel empty, dry, hungry, thirst?

• Holy moment every week

• God’s mercy– China, North Korea, Middle East

• Brothers and sisters, sweet fellowship w/ God…want more

• David has experienced this…God’s steadfast love

• “Hesed” – this is God’s covenant-keeping love…we failed

• “Hesed” love/his steadfast love fuels our praise and worship

• Be floored that God loves and saves sinners like us

• JC took all our sin on himself

• God’s steadfast love for us – his never-giving-up-unbreaking-always-and-forever love should taste better to us than life itself

• Everyone loves something immensely…saw this reality this past week

• Paul Nicklen – spirit bear & leopard seal…pic more important than life

• God’s faithful love to us – unfaithful people – should be more precious to us than life itself

• May it be!

• BIG IDEA

**3) vv5-8**

• Our desire for God and delight of him not just corporate gathering

• At all hours of the day or night

• David remembers/reflects God’s goodness in watches of the night

• The Hebrews divided the night into three watches – 1) sunset to 10:00pm, 2) 10:00pm to 2:00am, and 3) 2:00am to sunrise

• David’s wakefulness – he’s remembering God w/ joy

• Favorite foods?

• Pic of fat and rich food – choose whatever it is you like – is like the spiritual and emotional satisfaction and joy of rich banquet food

• Remembering the Lord’s past works bring comfort even during the night when the shadows of adversity haunt us

• When our past sins haunt us

• When our own thoughts of worthlessness creep in

• When the enemy tries to condemn us

• Even then, we can find joy in Jesus

• We have victory in Jesus!

• v7 - he has been our help!

• v7 – we’re the in shadow of his wings!

• The pic here’s one of safety…we’re in a place of safety

• Like a mother bird protecting her chicks under her wings

• David’s confidence lies in the Lord – whose help and support he seeks

• Therefore, he draws close to God

• Just as we will when we’re changed by Jesus

• When we’re converted, we’ll have an increasing thirst for God…but also an increasing desire to cling to him above all else

• We see that David clings to God and that God’s right hand upholds him

• Both are essential/necessary

• This word for “cling” is the same word used in Gen 2:24 for “hold fast”

• It’s a picture of committed permanence/being stuck to

• 2 Kings 18:5-6 – King Hezekiah clung to the Lord and was considered one of Judah’s greatest kings b/c of it

• And, this is where we want to be!

• We want to cling to our God of steadfast love for us in Jesus

• We want to hold fast to him

• We want to be held firmly in God’s grip

• When we’ve been changed and transformed by Jesus we’ll be aware that he’s all we need…and, really, he’ll be all we want

• We won’t be captured by anything else or anyone else

• We won’t be satisfied by anyone or anything else

• We’ll cling to God b/c he’s the only one who satisfies, provides safety, the only one who upholds us, the only who deserves all our praise

• I fear we’re far too content…far too comfortable…too much competing for the desires of our hearts

• Great jobs, homes, cars, boats, campers, bank accounts, retirement funds, friends, family

• Should we be clinging tightly to any of these?

• Do we want to be upheld by any of these things?

• These good gifts from God are meant to be just that…good gifts from God

• May nothing grip us but God…and God alone

• A heart that desires God and clings to him above all else will be held firmly in his grip

• May we know the HS’s working in us in this way

• And, if it’s not happening yet, may we beg God that it would

**4) vv9-11**

• We see here where the immediate troubles in David’s life come from

• We looked at them earlier to build the context of our passage

• That David’s on the run

• We see the promise that those who’re hostile to God and those who seek to destroy God’s faithful ones will ultimately be destroyed by God

• We see pictures of death here for the wicked ones

• “depths of the earth” – the grave

• “portion for jackals” – scavenging wolf that symbolizes destruction

• This is a reminder that those who oppose God/God’s enemies will receive what they deserve from God

• But, not those who belong to God

• Not those who are his children

• Not those who desire God/thirst for God/long for God

• When we thirst after God and cling to him/hold fast to him we will rejoice in God

• God’s vengeance and just give reason for further rejoicing

• God’s victory over sin and evil gives cause for further worship

• We see this happen with David here

• And, shouldn’t we respond this way too!?

• Again, this week, I was longing for the day when all sin and evil will disappear

• Feeling the effects of sin & enemy trying to dog us/hunt us…roaring lion

• Knowing God’s victory and deliverance over sin and evil should give us great joy and confidence in God

• He is good

**5) CONCL**

• And, we’re guaranteed a future w/ our good God

• Our good God who poured out his steadfast love on us – his “hesed” love – in the work of JC on the cross

• His “hesed” love – his steadfast love – is better than this life

• His steadfast love saves and forgives and redeems no matter who we are or what we’ve done

• Has his love changed us?

• Has his love made us long for him/desire him more than anything?

• Maybe God’s working in your heart right urging you to keep something in check b/c it’s surpassed God in what’s important in your life

• Maybe he’s calling you to surrender something to him/to give something up

• Maybe he’s calling you to fully surrender to him today for the first time…maybe something’s always held you back

• Don’t ignore God’s working in your heart

• Ask him to show you how he wants you to respond so that you’ll desire him and cling to him more than anything

• BIG IDEA