

Summit Woods Baptist Church
Sermon Study Equipping Class

Psalm 63 -Longing for God in Worship

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

Read Psalm 63

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined>. Commands are double-underlined>. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

Psalm 63

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

1 O God,

 You are my God;

I shall seek You earnestly;

My soul thirsts for You,

my flesh yearns for You,

 In a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 Thus I have seen You

 in the sanctuary,

 To see Your power and Your glory.

3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,

 My lips will praise You.

4 So I will bless You as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands in Your name.

5 My soul is satisfied

 as with marrow and fatness,

And my mouth offers praises

 with joyful lips.

6 When I remember You on my bed,

I meditate

 on You

 in the night watches,

7 For You have been my help,

 And in the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy.

8 My soul clings to You;

Your right hand upholds me.

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9 But those who seek my life to destroy it,
Will go into the depths of the earth.

10 They will be delivered over to the power of the sword;
They will be a prey for foxes.

11 But the king will rejoice in God;
Everyone who swears by Him will glory,

For the mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped.

1. What can you learn about the context of the Psalm from the superscription? Are there other passages of the Old Testament that might provide the context for this psalm?
2. What biblical significance is there to the location of the “wilderness” as described in the superscription? What does it mean for David to find himself in the wilderness?
3. What does the use of the personal pronoun, “my,” communicate in verse 1 of this Psalm?
4. What idea is being repeated in verse one? Why might the Psalmist repeat this idea?
5. Read and compare the opening lines of Psalm 42. How are they similar? What does this imagery communicate?

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6. How is verse two connected to verse one? How does verse two flow out of verse one?

7. Note the transitions between future tense verbs (has not happened yet to the psalmist), present tense (currently happening), and past tense (has already happened). What observations can you make from these transitions?

❖ Day 2

Read Psalm 63 again.

8. Where does the psalmist go to seek out the power and glory of God? How might these be found in this place?

9. What does David count as better than life itself? How might this perspective shape the way David lives? How might it shape how he responds to his present circumstances?

10. How does the superscript's description of "in the wilderness" impact the weight of verse 3b-4?

11. Where is the psalmist's satisfaction ultimately found? How does this relate back to verse 1?

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12. Given the context, what is likely being described in verse 5a?

13. What is the significance of comparing satisfaction in God with satisfaction in marrow and fatness?

14. How is it possible for the Psalmist to offer up lips of joyful praise (vs 5 and 7)?

❖ Day 3

Read Psalm 63 again.

15. How might the practices of “remembering” and “meditating” on God be helpful in a season of being in the wilderness?

16. When does the psalmist remember and meditate on God according to the psalm?

17. What does remembering and meditating on God entail?

18. What is the nature of the contrast in verse 9? What is being contrasted?

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19. How are the enemies of the psalmist described? What will happen to them?

20. How can the Psalmist be so confident in the outcome of his enemies?

21. Summarize this passage in 21 words or less.

In preparation for Sunday, pray for total satisfaction in God and no other idol. Pray for trust and dependency on him even in seasons of difficulty and suffering. Pray remembering the deeds of the God and meditating on the character of God.