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I Will Praise You Anyway; Psalm 63
GPBC
1.3.20

Introduction – If you recall in our previous study of psalms, we observed that David’s flight from his own son Absalom must have been the most heart-wrenching and physically demanding challenge of his entire life, for it brought forth from him more psalms than any other event in his life. It wasn’t his steady keeping of the sheep, his amazing slaughter of Goliath, or his dramatic rise to the throne that most occupied his heart and his pen. It was the betrayal of his own son that thrust him to sincerely and urgently seek God, and in seeking, to find and know the comfort and strength and promise and assurance of having the Lord as his shepherd and fortress and rock.

In many of David’s psalms where Absalom’s threat is the background, we find him crying out to God, seeking refuge in the refuge he knows is there. Here, in Psalm 63, this seems to be a psalm written from the perspective of having found that refuge. The circumstances haven’t changed at the time of writing Psalm 63, but David’s perspective certainly has. He’s no longer seeking so much as he is rejoicing in the finding. He has learned, and so may we learn, that whatever occasion of life or whatever circumstance we find ourselves in, we can praise God anyway.

Psalm 147:1 says, “Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.” No matter where we are in life, it is always fitting to sing praise to God. As I believe Psalm 63 can be summed up in these words: I will praise You anyway!

- I. My Circumstances Will Not Deter My Praise (vv1-4)
 - a. Vv3b-4 is where he lands, the conclusion to which he arrives, the destination at which he is settled – my lips will praise You. So – meaning, taking all things into account – So I will bless You as long as I live, in Your name I will lift up my hands. In other words – I will praise You anyway.
 - b. V1 gives us insight into how his present circumstances have impacted his life, particularly his spiritual state.

- i. My soul thirsts for You. What does it mean to thirst? III. Spurgeon. Just as the body grows relentlessly thirsty in a dry and weary place, so does the soul grow relentlessly thirsty for God in situations that has rendered our hearts dry and weary. Just as we must have water on those occasions, so we must have God in these spiritually waterless places.
 - ii. He says my soul thirsts and my flesh faints. In other words, his whole person, body and soul, has grown weary and tired from his current condition.
 - iii. But David will not be deterred in his praise because the God that can satisfy the thirsty soul and fainting flesh is David's God. O God, You are my God. The atheist says there is no god. The world says there are many gods. The believer says, "O God, You are my God." And that's where the sure source of refreshment will come.
 - c. So now we see vv2-3a is how he gets from v1 to v4. Even though he finds himself in a place that has taxed his soul and body, he will praise God anyway because:
 - i. He has seen the Lord through the worship of the Lord. God has revealed Himself to David in His Word and in prayer and in the corporate worship of believers – and what David has seen of God is His power and glory. III. Job
 - 1. A power that is above all circumstance and a glory that can fill any empty heart or weary mind.
 - ii. Not only has he seen the power and glory of God, he has come to know the Lord's steadfast love. III. Note once more, this knowledge of God has come through worship – private and corporate.
 - d. Notice how 4a is a response to 3a! As great as the blessing of life is, there is something even better than living, namely knowing God's steadfast love. So David is going to take the lesser, amazing gift of life and spend it blessing the One who is greater!
 - e. That is the key to really living – spend it praising.
- II. God's Past Grace Remains in the Present (vv5-8)
 - a. David has even more reason to praise God anyway.

- b. Knowing God's power and glory and steadfast love, David knows that God, and God alone, will satisfy his thirst and weariness. His great enough in who He is to fill up a destitute soul and overflow an empty heart. David knows that is the case with God because he remembers!
- c. Vv2-3 is what he has remembered and what he is meditating upon. He turns his attention from Absalom to God and when his soul is facing in the right direction – up – his thirst is quenched.
- d. He remembers God's past grace to him, v7. For You have been my help. You, God, all-powerful, glorious, loving God, my God, You have been my help. I will sing for joy even in the shadow of death because you keep me in the shadow of our wings.
- e. The fact that You have been my help in the past reminds me that You are my help in the present. I will sing for joy and I will cling to you – for You uphold me.
 - i. How did I survive this desert? How have I not been overcome by my circumstances? How did my soul not shrivel up and thirst to death? What kept me going and seeking?
 - ii. Your right hand upholds me.
 - iii. Being held in the hand of God is sufficient enough for any trial, opposition, hardship, or persecution. Absalom wanted so bad to get his hands on David, but David was in the hand of God.
 - iv. No one and nothing can pluck us out of that hand!
- f. Remember dear saints, in whatever you are in, you are also in the hands of God – so we can praise Him anyway!

III. God is Greater than any Foe (vv9-11)

- a. No matter how strong the foe or convincing the lie or great the deception or evil the scheme, if you are in the hands of God, your end is not defeat. Your end is rejoicing and exulting in God. Even if in death, your life is hidden in God.
- b. You will rejoice again, one way or the other. Evil will be overthrown and liars will be silenced, one way or the other. God will prevail, therefore, if you are in Him, so will you.
- c. That is why we can praise Him anyway. Let evil threaten. Let liars lie. But let the people of God rejoice. For in the end, there will be no more evil. There will be no more lies. But there will always be praise!!