

Summer of Psalms
A Personal Lament – Psalm 130
July 1, 2018

If you, O LORD, should mark inequities, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

– Psalm 130:3-4

I. A SONG OF ASCENTS

- As best as can be ascertained, the songs of ascent (120-134) were sung by the people of Israel as they made pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the annual feasts (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles).

II. OUT OF THE DEPTHS!

- The psalmist cries out from the depths of his sin. He is flooded with guilt and remorse (Ps. 51:1-6; Rom. 7:21-25).
- He calls upon God to hear and to be attentive; to not turn aside when he is needed so greatly (Ps. 22:1; 94:8-11; 121:1-2; Neh. 4:4-5; Matt. 14:30).
- If God kept a record of our wrongs, where would any of us be (vs. 3; Ps. 103:1-14; Isa. 1:18; Micah 7:19)?
- With God there is forgiveness of sins! Hence, he can be “feared” or “worshipped” (Matt. 9:2; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 1:7-8; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 2:12).
- The psalmist trusts in God’s forgiveness based upon God’s promise (vs. 5). Thus assured, his soul waits expectantly on God to extend his grace (vs. 6).

III. FROM PERSONAL TO COMMUNITY

- The psalmist recognizes he is part of a community. He urges Israel to place their hope in God as he has done (1 Chron. 21:17; Neh. 1:4-7).
- With God there is “plentiful redemption” (Isa. 28:16; Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:11-14).

KNOW: God hears our cries of repentance and responds to them with grace and mercy.

DO: Do not carry your sin. Cast it upon Jesus.

Recommended Reading:

The Grace and Truth Paradox by Randy Alcorn (LifePoint Library #248.4 ALC)
Pilgrim’s Progress by John Bunyan

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please read Psalm 130

1. What do you feel/think when you hear this psalm read out loud? What images does it bring up?
2. What would it look like for you if God kept a record of your sins?
3. What does it mean to “wait” on the Lord?
4. Do you sense the psalmist’s anticipation as he waits on God? Do you ever feel that sense of anticipation?
5. How responsible do you feel personally for the sins of our nation? Why?
6. Share, if you feel comfortable doing so, a time when God demonstrated his grace and forgiveness to you.