

Sermon SERIES: Songs from a Broken Heart – Psalms

Message: Do You Ever Feel Despair?

Psalm 10

Look at a Psalm that is given to either the chicken or the egg question.

Do you ever feel despair?

Ultimate questions rise up and cause us to wonder...where is God and why does the godless do well while you seem to struggle?

What lands us in despair?

1. **You question big things (v.v. 1-2), which can lead you to express one thing that is internalized as everything.**

What happens?

- a. Current circumstance and the world around you shape you into a cynic.

“As my father always used to tell me, 'You see, son, there's always someone in the world worse off than you.' And I always used to think, 'So?'” - Bill Bryson

We experience unfair treatment. We watch as others who have no place for God or what is right be promoted, gain wealth, get recognized. What starts out as disappointment becomes layer upon layer of whys, and belief that God is unconcerned, if He is there at all.

The Psalmist gives evidence in his questions and statements...v2, 3, 4, 5

- b. Cynicism crowds out faith and offers you doubt, anger, and despair.

Can you be honest with yourself and with me? Are you in a tizzy, worked up and angry about “things” because they are an affront to God, or because the injustice is an affront to you.

James 4: 1-2^{The Message}] Where do you think all these appalling wars and quarrels come from? Do you think they just happen? Think again. They come about because you want your own way, and fight for it deep inside yourselves. You lust for what you don't have and are willing to kill to get it.

“No matter how cynical you get, it is impossible to keep up.” – Lily Tomlin

- c. Despair occurs as your sin of unbelief is clouded and minimized.

The sin of unbelief hides and when it does not hide, we minimize it and what this means...because unbelief for the cynic and those in despair feel as natural as breathing.

What happens when God and what he does is removed from view:

Psalm 23 Emphasis added.

- ~~The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.~~
- ~~He makes me lie down in green pastures.~~
~~He leads me beside still waters.~~
- ~~He restores my soul.~~
~~He leads me in paths of righteousness~~
~~for his name's sake.~~
- ~~Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,~~
~~I will fear no evil,~~
~~for you are with me;~~
~~your rod and your staff,~~
~~they comfort me.~~
- ~~You prepare a table before me~~
~~in the presence of my enemies;~~
~~you anoint my head with oil;~~
~~my cup overflows.~~
- ~~Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me~~
~~all the days of my life,~~
~~and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord~~
~~forever.~~

When we stop dreaming in a good God we start dying the death of despair...and the path is paved with cynicism (for every blue sky there is a cloud. Everyone has an angle. No one can be trusted. You pray, something happens...and you conclude...it would have worked out anyway..

2. BUT God-trusting lamenting can lead you out of despair even as you witness what your mind cannot necessarily understand.

HERE IS HOW:

- a) Interrupt your despair with childlike faith (v 5,14)
- b) Lean into truth; God sees, hears, and will act (verses 14, 17, 16)
- c) Embrace what God has promised;
 - i. Heart strength/heart change (v 17)
 - ii. Ultimate justice for fatherless and oppressed.

"I will quit keeping score (comparing myself to my neighbor). I will not judge Your goodness. No, I will rest in the bounty of your mercy." – Paul Tripp

STUDY – DO NOT INCLUDE

Why Do You Hide Yourself? Exegesis is highlighted

Psalm 10

¹Why, O Lord, do you stand far away? Is God distant? Is he far off...deism?

Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? One of life's ultimate questions...where is God when trouble strikes? Does God care?

²In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; Propositional Statement - wicked pursues the helpless (poor) (this contributes to his question in v 1-2)

let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

³For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul,
and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the Lord.

⁴In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;
all his thoughts are, "There is no God." the conclusion of the psalter - the wicked believes there is no God and has reason to think it. (see next verses

⁵His ways prosper at all times;
your judgments are on high, out of his sight; though wicked prosper, he does not know that God is judging, it is out of sight (understanding)

as for all his foes, he puffs at them.

⁶He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved; INWARD - heart motivation, I can make my way to no adversity (money, power)

throughout all generations I shall not meet adversity."

⁷His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; - his speech reflects his heart - curse (vile/unrestrained), lie, and push down others
under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

⁸He sits in ambush in the villages; HE SITS
in hiding places he murders the innocent. HIDES

His eyes stealthily watch for the helpless; WATCHES

⁹he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; LURKS

he lurks that he may seize the poor;

he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net. SEIZES (vv 7ff - all the actions of wicked - from thoughts to action is to do harm - but to whom? are we offended with rulers because they act in ways that are against God, or against what we would deem right...how much action do you take for justice, for the oppressed, the innocent, the oppressed or are we more concerned with what works best in your sensibility - how taxes should be, whether Gov. should be larger or smaller...is your opinions drafted about what protects you...or what protects the orphan and the widow. Our anger reveals us. Racism makes Jesus angry...why does it not make you uneasy?)

¹⁰The helpless are crushed, sink down,
and fall by his might.

¹¹He says in his heart, "God has forgotten,
he has hidden his face, he will never see it." Is this real, exaggeration, truth, or imagination? This is what it seems like and it creates fear as we seemingly cannot control anything (and you cannot)...He is saying God's righteous rule is absent.

¹²Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; Appeal to God - forget not the afflicted - God, please intervene

forget not the afflicted.

¹³Why does the wicked renounce God
and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?

¹⁴ But you do see, for you note mischief and vexation, - BUT GOD MOMENT SURFACES...he does see, he notes what is occurring

that you may take it into your hands;
to you the helpless commits himself;
you have been the helper of the fatherless.

¹⁵ Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer; Break the arm means bring down the rule

call his wickedness to account till you find none.

¹⁶ The Lord is king forever and ever; The KING is SOVEREIGN - this is the ultimate perspective. Is HE in your life?

the nations perish from his land. in the end, nations come and nations go, rulers rise and they fall, but God remains in HIS LAND

¹⁷ O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;
you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear Promise - heart strengthened, a listening ear that will do justice.

¹⁸ to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, (who are the real oppressed?) so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

BROAD OVERVIEW, quick exegesis:

vv 1-2 TWO BIG QUESTIONS

vv 3-4 Evidence of Trouble that leads to despair

v 5 - First INTERRUPTION TO THE PROSPERITY - GOD SEES, BUT IT IS NOT PERCEIVED BY THE CASUAL OBSERVER

VV 6FF - WICKED SAYS, SITS, HIDES, WATCHES, LURKS, SEIZES

VV 14FF - Second Interruption BUT GOD ALSO SEES AND ...

VV 17 - HEARS

VV 16 - ACTS

VV 17 - BRING JUSTICE FOR THE MOST HELPLESS (WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?)