

David's Healing Process

I. Psalm 43 Context

A. Absalom's popularity was growing.

B. David's dilemma

II. David's healing process involves the "Great Physician"

A. David speaks honestly to God.

B. Through prayer, David eventually moves from emotion to truth.



- change happens in circles, not rows -

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We begin the 7th week of G3s. This week's questions can become very personal. **Please honor the covenant that you signed promising to keep safe and confidential the things you hear.**
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GETTING TO KNOW YOU

* What are your top favorite go-to "comfort" foods?

* Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER - Read Psalm 43

1. How would you describe David's emotions in the first verse? Has there ever been a time you felt alone in defending yourself?

Vindicate me, O God: The psalmist repeated a familiar theme in the Psalms – a cry for vindication. He felt unjustly accused and took his sense of injustice to the right place – to the throne of God, and he left his vindication up to God.

Deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man! The psalmist knew the difficulty of dealing with deceitful and unjust people, because they not only do wrong, but they also know how to cover it up with deceit. In such a tough situation, the psalmist did the right thing – he cried out to God. (**Guzak – www.enduringword.com**)

2. David laments that he is being unjustly accused by wicked men, but finally realizes his hope is in God alone. Does this provide a glimpse for how Jesus could ask, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34) when he was unjustly treated? Do you think we can even compare these two?

---To provide some background to this Psalm, take a moment as a group to **read 2 Samuel 15:7-14.**---

3. Absalom was David's son and Ahithophel was one of David's closest advisors – both turned on him. Can you share of a time a someone close turned on you? How did you respond?

Opinion based answers required – Be prepared with an example

4. Verse 2 David writes, "You are the God of my strength" (NKJV). What do you see people who do not have God turn to for strength? How does that usually help or hinder their situation? In what ways does God give you strength?

Opinion based answers required – Be prepared with an example

5. According to David in Psalm 43:3b-4 where does he pray "light and truth" will lead him? Why is getting there so important?

The psalmist wanted God's light and truth to lead him to a specific place – to **Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle.**

Led by the light and truth of God, the psalmist came to the tabernacle, to the tent of meeting with God. Any place God's people gather together to meet Him can become a tabernacle.

The psalmist wanted to go to the **tent of meeting.** He wanted to because:

- He knew the Lord was there is a special way.
- He knew that God's people were there.
- He knew that it was a place where he could focus on God.

I will go to the altar of God: Full of faith, the psalmist anticipated God's answer to his prayer and declared that he would sacrifice (go to the altar) when the answer came. This wouldn't be a sacrifice of atonement for sin, but for gratitude and celebration of fellowship with God. (**Guzak – www.enduringword.com**)

“The way to God is ever the way of the altar. The way to the altar is opened by the sending out of light and truth from God.” (Morgan)

When we follow the light and truth of the LORD, it will lead us to His altar – the cross where Jesus was given as a sacrifice for our sins.

When the writer to the Hebrews stated, We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat (Hebrews 13:10), he likely referred to the God's provision at the cross, the ultimate offering on the ultimate altar of God. We can go to the altar of God by going in faith to the cross of Jesus and thinking deeply upon His work and victory there.

Under the New Covenant we no longer offer animal sacrifices, but we still bring the sacrifice of praise. Hebrews 13:15 tells us how: *Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.* Our words and songs of praise become a sweet-smelling sacrifice to God. (**Guzak – www.enduringword.com**)

6. The Tabernacle was a place where God's people would meet to corporately worship. Why is this still important for us to do today?
(**Please read Hebrews 10:23-25 for additional reasons**)

Forsaking fellowship is a sure way to give place to discouragement. This discouragement festers where God's people are not exhorting one another.

Some only go to church if they feel they “need it” at the time. But our motivation for fellowship must be to obey God and to give to others. We can and should gather with believers to encourage someone who needs to stand strong against a tide of discouragement.

- We gather to receive something from God.
- We gather to give something to God.
- We gather to encourage each other by our shared faith and values.
- We gather to bless one another.
- We gather to work together.

(**Guzak – www.enduringword.com**)

7. Compare and contrast David's attitude and approach towards his situation in verse 5 with verse 1?

Why are you cast down, O my soul?: The psalmist had hope of God's redemption, but it had not come yet. In the meantime, he would not surrender to his feelings of depression and discouragement. Instead, he challenged those feelings and brought them to God. He said to those cast down and disquieted feelings, “Hope in God. He will faithfully answer again, because He has before.”

We see that at the end of the psalm none of the circumstances of the psalmist had changed – only his attitude, and what a difference that made. (**Guzak – www.enduringword.com**)

“Not yet has the answer come. The darkness and the mystery are still about him, but the shining way is seen; and again, the soul is forbidden to despair and hope is encouraged in God.” (Morgan)

For I shall yet praise Him: “The refrain returns to the conflict between faith and doubt, to the contrast between the present and the future, and to the hope that ‘I will yet praise him.’” (*VanGemeren*)

TAKING IT HOME – (This is not a group discussion question)

How might this psalm help you in times when you wonder where God is?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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SERVICE PROJECT SPOTLIGHT– Pivotal Point has acquired new property next to their apartment complex. They have many service projects there they need help with, as well as at the thrift store. If your Growth Group would like to see a list of these projects, email ken@graceontheweb.org; or if your group would like to set up a day next month to help, contact Lisa at Pivotal Point (816-689-1383)

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