

3/23/20 - Out of the Deep

Ps. 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

2 Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

3 If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

5 I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

6 I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

7 Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

8 He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

Ps. 130 has been one of my favorite songs since college. While in the choir there, we sang [John Rutter's "Requiem"](#), a piece of which is the text of this Psalm (I linked it so you can hear it as well.) And while I loved the music specifically (cello has always been my favorite instrument), over time I grew to love the words as well, for they are yet another OT rendition of the gospel.

It begins with an acknowledgement of life's reality. "Out of the deep I cry out to God." Whether "the valley of the shadow of death" or "the wilderness" or "the deep", we all find ourselves in dark and frightening places quite regularly, including this very day. And when we find ourselves there, we cry out to God for mercy.

Next comes the acknowledgement of our sinfulness and God's forgiveness. But it doesn't end there. Forgiveness does not just free us from sin but it frees us to serve God. Being forgiven must lead us to worship, mission, and further discipleship.

We move on to another reality of life - waiting. In fact, this is both the center of the Psalm and the most repeated phrase, the Psalmists way of emphasizing its importance. Today we are extremely bad at waiting. But this is a reality in our world, and especially apropos in today's circumstances.

And then finally, we conclude with God's call to hope. Hope in God, the Psalmist says, implying the futility of putting our hope in other things. Only God can love unfailingly and redeem. Only He is worthy of our hope, our trust, and our devotion.

One Psalm with every aspect of the gospel message. We can use this as a prayer, as a model for our evangelistic conversations, or as a devotional guide for our meditations.

Questions to ponder:

Describe "The Depths" or "The Deep" from which you are crying out today.

Think about a list of your sins, beginning at birth and continuing through today, then thank God that He keeps no such list.

As God's forgiven and beloved child, how might you serve God today?

As we sit at home, "sheltering in place", what is the hardest part of waiting? For what are you waiting today?

Tell one other person today about your hope: in what are you putting your hope, and why?