



Sermon Series: The Heart of Worship

To be used with Session 4: The Benefits of Worship

Sermon Title Possibilities: Thirst Quencher, Satisfaction Guaranteed, A Song of Peace in the Storm

Scripture: Psalm 63:1-11

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “The Heart of Worship,” this sermon helps the preacher encourage people to look to God alone, even during the storms of life. We serve a God who loves and demonstrates that love by caring for us in good times and in bad times. There is no satisfaction or joy found outside of the love from this God. Therefore, we must look to God and Him alone for satisfaction and true joy. It is only by placing our faith in God will we experience the satisfaction and joy found in Him.

Introduction:

As a kid who grew up in the deep south in Alabama, during the summer we would experience very hot summer days and nights. The heat index would be high because the humidity was high. The temperature could have been 92 degrees, but it felt like 102 degrees because of the high humidity. We would play outside in this excruciating heat, and we would even play basketball during the hottest part of the day. On several occasions I can remember playing in the heat and getting so thirsty that Gatorade or Sprite would not satisfy my thirst. The only thing that would satisfy my thirst was water. It didn’t matter how much Gatorade or Sprite I drank, only water would satisfy. In Psalm 63, David is experiencing an overwhelming heat; the heat from his enemy’s hot pursuit of him in the wilderness of Judah. David looked to the author of life when his enemies wanted to take his life.

1. Satisfaction of our days. (Psalm 63:1-5)

It has been said, “Never question in the dark what you learned in the light” (Author Unknown). David opens this Psalm the same way he ends the Psalm, by using a literary device called inclusio. He begins with God, and he ends with God. God is the theme of this Psalm. He uses the personal pronoun “my” to demonstrate his personal relationship with God. There were three phrases that he used to describe his relationship with God. He said that he will seek God earnestly, thirst after God, and his soul faints for this God. David believed something about God which in turn caused him to be satisfied in him and not his circumstances. God’s faithfulness was looked upon in the sanctuary. David remembered how faithful God had been in the past which brought hope in his current circumstance. He realized that God’s steadfast love was better than life, therefore he gave glory to God. (vs.3) This love caused him to sing and be satisfied in God alone. He had faith that he would continue to worship and glorify God. John Piper said, “God is most glorified when you are most satisfied in Him.”¹ David is satisfied in the storm because he has tasted and seen that Lord is good and that there is nothing in this world that can satisfy but

¹ John Piper. Meditation of a Christian Hedonists

Him. (Psalm 34:8)

2. Safety in our nights. (Psalm 63:6-8)

God was David's safety in the middle of the night as he meditated and sang to Him. While his enemies were in hot pursuit to kill him, David praised God. This is a picture of what we are to do when we are in a storm; we are to focus on the God of our salvation. When people are seeking to kill us physically, or trying to kill our reputation as pastors, we are to continue to place our faith in God. David's faith was unshakable. He clung to God. What is faith? Faith is forgetting all that you think and trusting all that God said. When our enemies are pursuing us, our flesh looks at what we can see, but God who you cannot see is still at work. Tony Evans said, "If all you see is what you see, you will never see all there is to be seen."² The shadow of God's wings points to the safety that we have in the presence of God even when we cannot see Him.

3. Surety concerning our future. (Psalm 63:9-11)

David still sings and clings to God believing that He would destroy his enemies. Again, this is a testament to David's faith in God, even in the storm. There were several reasons why David's enemies were seeking to kill him. One of the primary reasons was their pride. It is important to remember that David's enemies are not seeking to kill him, they are seeking to kill God. They are opposing who God had sovereignly set as king. Today we are faced with situations similar to David's. People are out to destroy our lives and reputations, but we must remember that they are ultimately seeking to destroy God. They are enemies of God, and it is evident in how they oppose the people of God. The people of God can rejoice because it is God who will deliver them from the mouth of liars. Our soul must be satisfied in Him because it is God who brings safety and security even in the storm.

Conclusion:

When our enemies are in hot pursuit of us like the heat of those warm summer nights, God's people must look to Him. They must not question in the night what they learned in the light, which is his steadfast love is better than life. This is why God's people can sing in the dark, because God is light and He has defeated the enemy, Satan. He did this by sending forth His Son, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, to die on the cross and raise from the dead. God shut the mouths of liars when Jesus rose from the grave. Robert Lowery wrote, "Up from the grave He arose. With a mighty triumph o'er His foes. He arose a Victor from the dark domain. And He lives forever with His saints to reign."³ Therefore, we do not fight for victory, but we fight from victory. Why? Because Jesus won the victory. This is the benefit of our worship!

Author Bio

Quintell Hill is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Preaching from Clump Divinity School at Anderson University. He has served for 20 years in pastoral ministry and is the lead pastor of Multiply Community Church in Monroe, NC. He also serves as an African American Church Mobilization Strategist with the International Mission Board. He and his wife Christie have two daughters, Moriah and Kharis.

² Tony Evans, Victory in Spiritual Warfare: Outfitting Yourself for the Battle

³ https://hymnary.org/text/low_in_the_grave_he_lay_jesus_my_savior

