

Psalm 130

I loved reading this particular portion again recently, I love the feeling in it, the humility, and also the honesty that the man who wrote these words shows as he cries out before God. He starts with the words 'Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord'. This is a figure of speech that represents a time of incredible difficulty and I think that everyone of us here right now will find ourselves in a time like that sooner or later but thank God that no matter what depths we may find ourselves in, no matter what circumstances or extremities there is someone who has promised to be there and to hear us....

Psalm 130:1

Out of the depths
I have cried to You, O Lord;

You know there is a contrast here that is just amazing and it's between the depths from which we cry and the heights from which God hears. There couldn't be anything more contrasting than those 2 dimensions the depths from which we cry sometimes and the heights from which God hears. Those 2 things are poles apart; an eternity apart in fact and yet the span of that and the gulf is filled by the love of God. Nothing else could bridge that span, that gulf but the love of God.

Psalm 130:1-3

Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord;
[2] Lord, hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive
To the voice of my supplications.
[3] If You, Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with You,
That You may be feared.

These verses are so honest; they do not deny the facts or avoid real and true issues, issues such as the fact that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. But what I love about this Psalm most of all is that it majors on forgiveness, God majors on forgiveness. You know how it is with someone who is at University, they major in a subject. God majors in forgiveness when His Son hung on that rugged cross. It showed to the world that God majors in forgiveness. Listen to this again, this is what God said...

Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, and let us reason together,"
Says the Lord,
"Though your sins are like scarlet,
They shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.

This proves to us again that God majors in forgiveness, mankind is broken tonight; mankind is fallen because of sin. There is no way we can deny that, there is no way we want to deny that and each and everyone here right now is affected by it but the blessed reality is that God majors not on our sins but in His forgiveness for them. This is the message of hope, this is the message of gladness, there is forgiveness with God, and God is even ready and willing to forgive the vilest offender. Listen to this...

Psalm 86:5

For You, Lord, are good, and
Ready to forgive,
And abundant in mercy
To all those who call upon You.

It doesn't matter how ashamed you are of what you have done in the past, it doesn't matter the force of guilt you are left with and carry with you there is something more than that, something greater, there is something more powerful than that and it's the truth and the fact that God is ready to forgive. I really believe that God doesn't want us to major on our sins He wants us to major on His forgiveness.

Hebrews 10:16-17

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," [17] then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

Let me ask you where would you hear a promise like that today? Where would you get something like that? It's only with the Lord; it's only with the one who loves us so much He is ready to forgive. Now if a person rejects that they have only themselves to blame as they reap the consequences of that rejection. The critic may spurn and question how God can be so good and yet send people to hell, how could a loving God do something like that, how can He take vengeance on those who have violated His law? But the truth is that before that day of recompense God is offering forgiveness. That's what God and the gospel is all about; that's what He majors in tonight.

2 Peter 3:9 says...

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, But is longsuffering toward us, Not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

God's forgiveness is His gift to us

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

When a Christian has been forgiven they are ready and willing to forgive others that have wronged them; it is His path for us. Another question I want you to think about is what does God's forgiveness do? God's forgiveness separates us; it separates us from our past, from our guilt, sin and shame.

Psalm 103:12

As far as the east is from the west,
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

God's forgiveness separates us, now if He has separated you from those sins don't whatever you do go near them again. Don't align yourself with them again; some Christians do that and it's wrong. The power of God's forgiveness separates us from sin, shame and sentence. Brothers and sisters never lose the joy and thrill of forgiveness. Something else God's forgiveness does to us is it secures us. Heaven has been secured because there is forgiveness with Him. There was a rotten, guilty man hanging beside Jesus who knew it himself for he said...

Luke 23:41

And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds;

He was convicted and convinced of his own wrongs, he was condemned and sentenced and about to die but at the 11th hour within a yard of hell he cried out to the Saviour and there on that cross he received the full measure of God's mercy and forgiveness and this was what he was promised...

Luke 23:43

And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

The point I'm making tonight is that for that man heaven was secured because he was forgiven and thank God it's the same for all who reach out for this. Stop trying to cover your sins, stop living in denial of them; you know they are there, God knows they are there but there is forgiveness with Him tonight and this is what forgiveness does; it separates and secures us but Christian listen to this, it also sends us. The Lord Jesus said "Freely you have received, now freely give". We need to go with the message of forgiveness and spread it and display it. If you are going to bring the gospel please major on forgiveness. The cross speaks of that, God majors on forgiveness. Listen to the verse again let it enter into your heart.

Psalm 130:3-4

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
[4] But there is forgiveness with You,

Amen...