

## 12.29.24 / Finding Satisfaction in God / Psalm 63:1-5

Illus: When I was six years old, there was a gift...

Gifts – Did you get what you dreamed you'd get? Did it satisfy?

Christmas break – is it bringing the satisfaction you hoped it would?

We're going to listen to and consider a Psalm this morning which speaks about **longing** and **satisfaction**.

(2-3) **Psalm 63:1-5**: Context – David is fleeing for his life because of a betrayal by his son. And he's longing for... God (more than rescue & victory, justice for his betrayer, comfort, etc.)

*(4) You, God are my God, **earnestly I seek you, I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.***

**Longing**: What about you? What do you long for? (Illus: Fasting)

What are you longing for? **Jesus... Comfort, success, health** – take inventory (not judgment) of those longings – just notice.

**Earnestly I seek you**... that's genuine effort. It's not just going through the motions and not just sitting there waiting for life to unfold. He's on a mission. This is something he **really** wants – like a thirsty person in a desert – great metaphor.

What kinds of things do people do to earnestly seek to satisfy their longings? Father with sick daughter  
Medical, Bar exam, athletics, diet, career

I think we know what it is to earnestly seek to satisfy our longings. So the questions I want us to consider are these:

(5) What are you longing for? How are you earnestly seeking to satisfy that longing?

In heart of hearts, is this your cry: **Comfort/success/Jesus**, earnestly I seek you, I thirst for you...? The first two sound silly but close to reality and the third one sounds admirable but not as close to reality.

Why don't I long for or run after Jesus in this way? Perhaps it helps us to ask, "why does *the Psalmist* run after God in this way?" The Psalmist next words give us a clue.

(6) **63:2-4**

In his good moments, the Psalmist longs for Jesus because... he's gotten a taste of **God's glory/power/love** and now He is captivated. It makes me wonder... How did David get this taste? Perhaps...

- (in obedience) Protecting his sheep (from lion and bear)
- Fighting Goliath
- Path to King (fleeing from Saul)
- In songs, dreams, visions

David has tasted the presence of the Lord and He declares that it is **better than life**. That is to say, this is the best thing about life; I'd give anything in life to experience it! Like the man willing to sell everything he has in order to buy that field. (tell story) Why? **Because he's seen what's in it!**

What **fuels** David's earnest seeking of God is **His experience** of God. **Why?** Because he's seen what's in it! He's gotten a glimpse of God's glory/power/love and his response is, *I want **that** (treasure) more than anything thing else I've ever experienced. I want the presence of God more than anything else in all the world.*

That's a challenging testimony. **What about you? Have you gotten a glimpse of God's glory/power/love which compels you to seek Him?**

This isn't a question I ask to stir up pride or guilt. It's a question that I ask in order to spur us all on. If you've experienced the Lord like this than I hope that you'll grab onto that experience and glue it into your memory... so that in the difficult moments (of which there will be plenty), you can call upon that memory of God's palpable presence and you can proclaim with all of your heart, *I have seen you in the sanctuary and **beheld your power and your glory**. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*

And if you haven't experienced the presence of Jesus in this way, I want to stir up your curiosity. What did David see in God that caused him to act this way? **Is it possible that David found some treasure in the field and you could find it to if you spent time looking?**

David closes this section of this Psalm with these words:

**(7) 63:5 I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods...**

Fully satisfied... that's amazing. Isn't that what we're all longing for?! If one can be fully satisfied with the presence of God and God is present in every believer in every moment through His Holy Spirit... then what can take away my satisfaction?

Maybe this is why Paul writes (Romans 8:38-39)...

I can fall into thinking that full satisfaction will **only** come with...

- the absence of difficult circumstances or
- the abundance of good circumstances.

It turns out **that's** chasing after the wind because **on earth** there will never be a **complete** absence of difficult circumstances and there will never be **enough** abundance of good circumstances so if my satisfaction rides of one of those two goals, I'm doomed. But if my satisfaction depends on the **presence of a loving God** than I can experience satisfaction for the rest of my life in any circumstance.

Paul says Phil 4:11-13 & 3:8 – **Is that your longing?**

Paul's teaching, David's testimony, the life of the Apostles all proclaim that **knowing Christ** is the only way to find **lasting satisfaction**.

**Bike illus – what happen next...**

**Other pursuits I hoped would bring lasting satisfaction:**

- Popularity / Athletic success / Friends
- Fun / Job / [Wife](#)
- [Healthy kids](#) / Occupational success / More Money
- Physical Health... Nope! [\(circle back to some\)](#)

None of those good things that I've been pursuing have brought me the satisfaction that I long for.

**Side note:** This is not to say that these pursuits are fundamentally wrong. It's good to run after your goals and desires to the extent that the Lord is sending you in that direction. Try to be successful, get good grades, make friends, go on adventures, make money, give money away... but do that stuff **not out** of a drivenness for satisfaction, do it to the extent that it's obedience to God's call on your life. **Your satisfaction** comes from **His presence** with you along each step of the road.

Back to the main point: None of those good things that I've been pursuing have brought me the satisfaction that I long for (nor have any of the bad things that I've ever pursued).

Only one thing has brought me deep and lasting satisfaction so I testify along with Paul's teaching, David's testimony and the life of the Apostles, that **knowing Christ** is the only thing that brings lasting satisfaction. [Amazing thing - this is so shockingly accessible!](#)

I find it...

in reading and sitting with His Word.

In listening to the Holy Spirit's nudge in a moment of indecision.

In taking **to** heart the Holy Spirit's correction

In obeying the Holy Spirit's direction

In believing the Holy Spirit's comforting word

I find it...

In **seeing** someone **else** experience something new of God

In receiving God's love through the generosity of a friend

I find it in an ongoing conversation with God throughout the ups and downs of life.

This does not describe my every moment and nor will it yours. But these moments (which are available to all) collaborate to convince me of the truth of what the Psalmist proclaims. (v3-5)