

## **Sermon Outline**

### **“Desperate, Part 1: Earnestly I Seek You”**

**Psalm 63 – Joshua Harris – October 10, 2010**

**Theme of this series:** What would it look like for us to live desperate for his truth, his power and his grace?

#### **Background of Psalm 63**

The occasion of Psalm 63 is David’s flight from his son Absalom, who planned to kill him and take the throne (2 Sam. 15:23, 28). David was away from home and hiding from his son in the wilderness of Judah.

#### **Who is the God I am to earnestly seek?**

1. Verse 1: We can say, “O God you are my God!” because Jesus said, “O God why have you forsaken me!” We can call him our God because Jesus shed his blood, died and was raised for us. This cry reminds us of his grace and mercy.
2. Verse 2-3 tell us that he is a God of power and glory and steadfast love. Our great God can accomplish anything. He is breathtaking in his splendor. And he shows steadfast, unwavering love to those who fear him.
3. Verse 5 tells us that he is the God who satisfies our souls, like rich food.
4. Verse 7 tells us that God is a God who helps his people. Like a mother bird, he protects us in the shadow of his wing.
5. Verse 8 points to the truth that God upholds his people. He sustains and strengthens us.
6. Verses 9-11 state that God is a God of justice. He will set things right. The wicked will be punished. The mouths of liars will be stopped.

#### **Why earnestly seek him if he is already my God?**

1. When we know God, when we glimpse his glory and goodness and mercy, we don’t walk away saying, “Well, I’ve had enough of that.” We say, “I need more of that! I want to see more! I want to know more!”
2. Because we are united with Christ by faith, we have everything! We can say, “God you are my God,” and yet to know Jesus is to want more of him. And so we cry, “Earnestly I seek you!” Grace doesn’t make us less thirsty; it creates new and greater thirsts that only communion with Christ can satisfy.

## **Sermon Outline**

### **How do I earnestly seek God?**

1. In this Psalm we see David earnestly seeking God through public and private worship. His intense desire for God expresses itself in the way he allocates his time and his thoughts.
2. He goes to the sanctuary to behold God's glory. (For us the equivalent is gathering with God's people each Sunday.) In this context, he praises God with his lips. He sings! And he raises his hands in worship.
3. Verse 6 shows that he also worships in private. He meditates on God on his bed. In the middle of the night he remembers God. And how does he remember God? We know from David's other Psalms that it's by meditating on his word. We seek God by spending time daily in the Bible. We seek him by praying throughout our day.

### **What if I am not earnestly seeking him?**

1. For David, a soul that thirsts and faints for God is not a problem to fix. It is a reality to live in every day. David sees that this world and its riches and power and glory are like a desert. They cannot quench the longings of his soul. Only God can satisfy his soul. Just as a human body withers and dies without water, so our souls wither and die apart from God.
  - a. Do you feel your need for God that acutely? Can you go days, even weeks, without prayer and God's word? Is it a small thing to miss a Sunday gathering to worship with God's people and hear God's word preached? Do you thirst for God?
2. So what do you do if you realize that you're not earnestly seeking God? A good question to ask first is, "What am I earnestly seeking instead?" If we're not thirsting for God, we're thirsting for something else. There's some other person or thing or achievement that we're looking to for the satisfaction of our souls.
  - a. Identify that. Confess that. Turn from it. And then ask God to make you thirst. Pray for God to begin to awaken you to your need for him. Ask him to cause you to thirst for his presence and his power.

### **Application**

1. Make extra room in your day to remember God. God's word encourages us to both demonstrate and to foster our thirst for God by making more time in our life to remember who he is and what he's done for us in Jesus.
  - a. Where could you, this week carve out extra time to think about and seek God?
    - i. Maybe it's choosing to turn off the news while you're driving around so you can pray or listen to worship music or sermons.
    - ii. Maybe it's waking up a few minutes early to grab time before your day starts to read God's word and pray.

## Sermon Outline

- iii. Maybe it's cutting back on some form of entertainment during the week so that you can reflect on God's truth.
  - iv. Maybe it's gathering with other Christians sometime during the week to pray together.
2. Come each Sunday eager to behold God. Evaluate your heart before God: does my approach to the Sunday meeting reveal earnest desire or complacency?
- a. God is calling us as a church to a season of greater urgency in seeking him. He wants us to ask him to stir us to thirst for him. He wants to satisfy us and dazzle us with new glimpses of his limitless power and glory. On Sundays:
    - i. Come **Eager** to sing to him, fellowship with other Christians, hear his word.
    - ii. Come **Expectant** that he will speak, change us and refresh us.
    - iii. Come **Early**—not walking in late, but in our seats and ready to go at 9 am or 11:30 am.

## Fellowship Starters

1. How can remembering, meditating and singing of God's glorious attributes and his faithfulness in your life stir a fresh hunger and thirst for him?
2. Josh shared, "Grace doesn't make us less thirsty; it creates new and greater thirst that only communion with Christ can satisfy." Is grace stirring a greater hunger and thirst in your heart for Christ or are you content, settled and satisfied with your present spiritual state?
3. Do you thirst for God? Is Jesus your greatest treasure, your pearl of great price, your first love? If not, what are you earnestly seeking after—success, money, relationships, perfect kids, etc.? How can you repent of your complacency and turn to seek after God?
4. How can you make room in your day to remember and seek God? What must you turn off, put down, cut off or put into your schedule to carve out extra time to think about and seek God?
5. How can you come each Sunday eager to behold God and expectant that he will speak, change and refresh us?
6. Take time as a small group to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to revive us and to create in us a fresh hunger and thirst for God—individually, as families and as a church.