

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

12-14-14 Ken Carlton

Title: DARK PROVIDENCES

Main Text: Psalm 43

Sermon Description: Psalm 42 & 43 are a matching set. They are bound by adjacent location in the Psalter as well as by theme and the chorus/refrain: "Why are you cast down, O my soul.... Hope in God...". Dark providences are those ominous valleys of death's shadow that serve our Lord's mysterious, yet glorious and sovereign purposes toward His own. Never were rod and staff so comforting to our Psalmist than in those chapters of life where he realized he needed them most. With compounding poetic flourish, the author of Ps 43 continues to recount his experience of holy separation anxiety. Here he dips his pen in the inkwell of outstanding redemption to illustrate the dark providences of psychological uncertainty. Never mind the mere feelings of desperate anguish saturating the desolate soul. Never-mind the unpredictable dangers of circumstantial uncertainty. The greatest banishment of the human heart lies in legal condemnation. The Psalmist cannot bear the thought of being saddled with the sacrifice deserving of his own sin... "I must get to the altar of God at all costs!" He cries.

Heading: Illustrating Holy Separation Anxiety from the Inkwell of Redemptive Vindication by...

1. DUAL EMPHASES

- a. Vindicate & defend (Ps 43:1) b. Deceitful & unjust (43:1) c. Light & truth (43:3) d. My salvation & my God (43:5)

2. DICHOTOMIES

- a. Fortress vs. chaotic sea (43:2, 42:7) b. Mourning vs. light (43:2, 3) c. Holy hill vs. Mt Hermon/Mizar (43:2, 42:6) d. Exceeding joy vs. cast down (Ps 43:4, 5) e. Praise on lyre vs. turmoil (43:4,5)

3. DIRECTION (Ps 43:3-4)

- a. Lead me b. Holy hill c. Dwelling d. Altar of God

4. DIVINE INSPIRATION (John 1:1-18)

- a. True light b. Tabernacle c. Grace d. Truth

Close: "The varied conflicts of the soul afford occasion for the exercise of the graces and thus, through the divine wisdom and goodness, are made the means of eventual good."-Henry March "Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain: God is His own interpreter and he will make it plain." "Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace, behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face." - William Cowper

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:	Theme:
Dual emphases	Dichotomies	To the altar	Light in Psalms	Light in gospels	Truth in gospels
Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:	Verses:
Ps 43	Ps 43	Ps 43:3-4	Ps 36:7-9	Jn 1:1-13	Jn 1:14-18