

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

11-9-14 Ken Carlton

Title: SONG OF DESCENT

Main Text: Psalm 42

Sermon Description: Extenuating circumstances have prevented the author of Ps 42 from experiencing the consolation, blessing, and privilege of corporate worship (the gathered assembly) at the temple/tabernacle rendezvous of divine favor. Psalms 120-134 are categorized as 'Songs of Ascent' they are joyful odes celebrating the pilgrimage to the temple mount for periodic worship. Ps 42 could be labeled as a Psalm of descent as it mournfully exudes the emotions of being denied such an opportunity. It seems Ps 42 and 43 were originally one song. They contain the thrice repeated chorus: "...Why so cast down, O my soul,..." The poetic impact of Psalm 42 pulls the reader into a sea-going vessel with the author. We find ourselves bobbing in an ocean of tumultuous unrest. Disillusion, uncertainty, and anguish, like waves, toss us to and fro, back and forth, yet 3 times the vessel's rope snaps taut confirming we are tethered to the anchor: our God and our salvation (42:5,11, 43:5). We will explore in 2 sermons how the author dips his pen in 3 inkwells to illustrate his point.

HEADING: ILLUSTRATING HOLY SEPARATION ANXIETY...

1. THE INKWELL OF EMOTIONAL DISQUIETUDE (Psalm 42:1-5)

- a. Escalating fervency (1-2) (Rom 8:20-24)
- b. Bitterness of vulnerability (3,10)
- c. The testimony of holy sentiment (4)
- d. A portable hope (5)

2. THE INKWELL OF TEMPORAL CIRCUMSTANCE (Psalm 42:6-11)

- a. Meaningful places (Ps 42:6, Ps 89, Ps 133) outskirts of banishment/ scope of sovereignty/ majesty of unity
- b. Tempest-like soul (42:7-8) voice of experience/ nevertheless sovereignty (Jonah 2:1-9)/ tether of covenant
- c. Irony of the meantime (42:9) 'Hesed' ...steadfast love

Close: Ultimate fulfillment of the psalmist's hope here foreshadowed is found substantively in Christ alone. John 4:(14-15), 20-26... In the context of thirst as an object lesson, Jesus answers the question of 'where to worship' with a proclamation of New Covenant glory. He announces and inaugurates the trans-geographical reality of worship for the redeemed. We will never be separated from the conditions of divine favor again. In Jesus Christ we have Spirit and truth dwelling within!

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: desperation	Theme: vulnerability	Theme: holy sentiment	Theme: soul anchor	Theme: meaningful places	Theme: fulfillment
Verses: Ps 42:1-2	Verses: 42:3,10	Verses: 42:4	Verses: 42:5,11, 43:5	Verses: 42:6, Ps 133	Verses: John 4:20-26