



Riverstone
BAPTIST CHURCH

Sermon Based Questions

Date- Sunday 19th August 2018
Series- Songs of prayer & praise 2

Faith in the Dark

*Lord, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.
May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry. Psalm 88:1-2*

1. A desperate appeal to God in the dark. (Psalm 88:1-9)

2. Isolation, depression and accusation in the dark. (Psalm 88:10-18)

A. Examining the texts.

1. Read Psalm 88:1-2. How is this introduction an expression of hope? What do you think is the significance about verse 1 in light of the whole Psalm?
2. Read Psalm 88:3-6. What do you think that the Psalmist is going through in these opening verses?
3. Read Psalm 88:7-9 what does the Psalmist accuse God of? What does he believe God is doing to him?
4. Read Psalm 88:10-18. What is the bargaining chip that the Psalmist uses to negotiate his salvation in verses 10-13? What dilemma do verses 13-14 present to us as we see the Psalmists song?
5. The Psalm ends in darkness, but what if anything does Psalm 139:11-12 & John 1:4-5 have to say into this dark ending?

B. Meditation & application

6. What do we do with this sad Psalm? Why is it in the bible and how are we supposed to use it?
7. Marcus said this Psalm is permission giving. Is that true and what permission does it give us?
8. What does the gospel and the revelation of God in Christ have to say to answer some of the questions of this Psalm? How is Jesus the fulfillment of this Psalm?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, I thank you that you do not want me to pretend with you. Thankyou that we can be ourselves and share our pains and burdens with you, knowing that you have big shoulders and are both good and kind. Thankyou more than anything that Jesus himself entered into the darkness- endured scorn and triumphed over it all and we thank you that in him- our suffering can be redeemed. In Jesus Name- Amen