

# Heart to Heart- Unseen and Unheard...God is at work.

## Sermon Notes

July 12, 2020

*Have you ever been at a place where you cannot sleep, and you are in such despair or concern that you are crying out to God?* Perhaps this went on for many nights.

*You need comfort.*

*You need direction.*

*You need assurance it will be ok.*

*God, are you hearing me? Have you left me? Am I to remain hopelessly in anguish?*

Asaph wrote this Psalm clearly distraught and disturbed due to some calamity or failure (arguable as to what the context was) that has happened around him. He was so distraught that it led to a season/night of sleeplessness, questioning, and ultimately coming to a place of resolve.

Read **Psalm 77** [Images provided by Ken]

### It is human to cry out to God in distress. **Psalm 77:1-2**

- Cry out to God to be heard and helped. (1)
- Seek the Lord while in distress. (2)
  - Imagery of reaching out to God to be picked up and held.
  - Comfort will not come until I am held.

### Recalling past intimate and powerful moments creates longing. **Psalm 77:3-6**

- When exhausted we can be comforted by memory. (3, 5)
  - Memories make us long for similar days of old—the good ol' days.
- Words become unimportant as longing grows. (4)
- Longing for the old creates questions for the present. (6)

## Questioning God is essential yet dangerous. **Psalm 77:7-9**

- It isn't a sin to question God. (David in many Psalms and Jesus in Mt. 27:46 both did.)<sup>BEC</sup>
  - Questioning to seek understanding or direction is necessary.
  - Questioning as an honest confession is a posture that seeks verses avoids.
- It is a sin to question God if you challenge his authority, his sovereignty, or demand a direction. **Romans 11:33-36**

Asaph's questions:

*Will rejection last forever? (7)*

*Am I beyond repair? (7)*

*Am I forever on the "outside" looking in? (7)*

*Is your love truly unfailing? (8)*

*Will you keep your promises? (8)*

*Are you still merciful? (9)*

*Are you emptied of compassion where only anger remains? (9)*

## Recalling the past provides clarity for the present. **Psalm 77:10-19**

- God's consistent historical actions towards people reveal his character. (11-14)
  - His mercy is proven over and over.
  - His promises are always kept.
  - His love for his people is evident and inarguable.
- He saved his people even when they were running from him. (15)
  - Redeeming the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.
  - A story of deliverance of those who consistently questioned and doubted him.
- God delivers when all seems lost. (16-18)
- God is there even when we don't see him. (19)

## Take aways.

1. In your desperate moments cry out to God.
2. Be honest with your thoughts before God.
3. While in the storm seek out the clarity of the past.
4. Keep walking with God—He is there and He is at work.

**Discussion Guide:**

1. Share a time where you felt very distraught and cried out to God and even wondered if he was hearing you. As you look back, how can you now see that God was at work that whole time? How does that help you now in similar situations?
2. What memories from your life would you likely draw from to recall the heart, character, and power of God?
3. What advice would you give to someone in your oikos that is struggling to believe that God cares or as is at work in the present struggle?