

## Experiencing God

Psalm 63  
Mark 5:25-34

July 1, 2018  
Faith Community

Experiencing God means you're not an observer. Instead, you're there. God is your light, your life, and your hope. God has demonstrated his faithfulness in your life time and again. You don't have all the questions answered but you're sold out on what you know to be true.

Here are a couple examples you need to see.

In our New Testament lesson we see a woman who'd struggled for twelve years and gone bankrupt treating a health problem that would not go away. Then she heard about this Jesus guy. If she could get to him and touch him, or even just touch his clothing, maybe that would do it. That's exactly what happened, and when she and Jesus were face to face, she heard him say something that shook her almost as deeply as her freedom from her illness,

***Daughter, your faith has made you well.*** (Mark 5:34)

Think of that. "Your faith has made you well." She sought him out. She fought through the crowd. What she and everyone else would call desperation, Jesus called faith. This is the only place in the Gospels where he called anyone 'daughter.' Watch this, friends.

In our Old Testament lesson, King David was also desperate. His own son had led an armed revolt against him. He ran for his life, and was hiding out in some desolate place. Instead of being in his prime, at the top of his game, he was, instead,

***...in a dry and weary land, where there is no water.***  
(v.1)

Have you ever been in a place like that?

Perhaps it was a betrayal not unlike David's.

Maybe it's the death of a loved one or the death of a relationship.

It could be a health issue that won't let you go.

A hard financial reality may be nipping at your heels.

It could simply be an emptiness that you've tried everything to fill, but nothing has worked.

Watch David. Watch closely.

Look at what he does not ask for. With his life in danger, he doesn't ask for revenge. He doesn't ask that the throne be returned to him. He doesn't ask for refreshment in that dry and weary land. He doesn't even say that his soul thirsts for water. Instead, it's this: "my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you." (v.1)

Watch this, friends. David knew the good life. He knew what it was to have power. He could win friends and influence people better than anyone. He also knew that none of it would fill the emptiness inside him, so he didn't even ask to get it back. Instead, he knew what to look for when the chips were down.

How did he get that way? Look at what sustained him in the dry and weary land:

***I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you.*** (vv. 2,3)

He had experienced God. He knew what it was to worship. He'd studied the great passages, even memorized a bunch. When the crisis came, when the wheels fell off, when all appeared lost, he knew what to do and he did it. That's why there's the expression of great need at the beginning of this Psalm, and the expectation of great joy at the end.

Friends, this is why it's so important that you be here regularly.

- You must have a rich inner life.
- You need to know how to pray.
- You have to have a small group of people with whom you can be real, and who will love you enough to hold you accountable for the quality and caliber of your life.
- And you need a way to express all that so others will get it too.

That's experiencing God. Nothing else will satisfy that emptiness. Scripture and the world itself are filled with examples of this. Watch closely.

If there's a longing inside you, pay attention to it. Listen to it. Hear what it's telling you. It could save your life.