

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 05/20/2012

Title: "Life Is Short"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study Through the Psalms"

Text: Psalm 90
Preacher: Ryan Kelly

Psalm 90 addresses us in our disappointments. Psalm 13:12 says, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life." We are disappointed for many reasons: for something good we thought should happen, or something bad we thought could never happen, or never happen to us. Some disappointments are small, and others significant. What do we expect out of life, out of God? Psalm 90 addresses us in our disappointments.

1. We are Fragile and Fleeting, but God is Forever (2-6)

- Human beings are like God in many ways. But we are also not like God in many ways, and Psalm 90 highlights one of these contrasts.
- Death is the culmination of our frailty and weakness and there are hints of this coming from the moment we're born, from our first sickness.
- In the arid Ancient Near East a morning rain can turn the grass green within a few hours, and the afternoon sun can scorch it just as quickly. The writer is talking about the quite fast life/death cycle of grass that takes place in a single day.
- Why do we die? Psalm 90 gives us an answer, beginning in verse 7...

2. We are Wayward and Weary, and God is Wrathful (7-11)

- Wayward is a reference to our rebellion, our sin. Death was promised in the garden for sin, and Adam sinned. Paul says, "the wages of sin is death" (Ro. 6:23).
- But sin doesn't just get us in trouble with God, it is also wearisome (7b, 9b, 10). At this point, we should note that this Psalm was written by Moses, a man with many ups and downs, including a particularly dark and heartache filled chapter in his life, recorded in Numbers 20 (Miriam, Moses' sister, dies; the people doubt and complain; Moses strikes the rock with devastating consequences; the King of Edom won't let the people into the land; Aaron dies).

3. We are Desperate and Dependant, but God is a Dwelling Place (1)

- How do we get from God being wrathful to being our dwelling place? Two other psalms speak to our utter need for mercy and forgiveness (32:1-2; 130:3-4).
- The New Testament explains how this is possible: Ro. 5:12, 15, 19; Eph. 1:7; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 1 Pet. 3:18.
- There's another disappointment story in the Bible recorded in Luke 24. The disciples watched Jesus die but hadn't the hope of his resurrection. Jesus, as a stranger, begins walking and talking with them. "We were hoping that he was the one to redeem Israel." But that is precisely why he died.
- The God as dwelling place theme shows up elsewhere: Ps. 91:1; Deut. 33:27; Ezek. 37:27; Rev. 21:3-4.

4. We are to Pursue and Pray for... (12-17)

- These verses show us what God wants for us and, thus, what we should pursue and pray for. Moses prays for several things that we will discuss next week.
- How is Psalm 90 just what we need? Psalm 90 address us in our waiting, death, sin, disappointment, homelessness, cruel change, work, struggle to be satisfied, time management, and our longing for God.

Sample Questions

- Ryan opened his sermon by unpacking the theme of disappointment in life. What is one of the biggest disappointments you've known? Ryan said that our disappointments often reveal the nature of our expectations. How do some of our disappointments reveal the nature of our expectations?
- What do we ultimately deserve? How should this condition our expectations in life? What has God done to address our ultimate problem? What does this psalm tell us about the nature of salvation? How has/should your specific experience with disappointment lead you to lean on and toward God.
- At the end of his sermon, Ryan mentioned a string of ways in which Psalm 90 touches the ground level of life, including, waiting, sin, cruel change in life, homelessness, time management, purpose in work, the fight for satisfaction. Which of these especially resonated with you?