

Series: Psalm

Title: Reverence Out of the Deep

Text: Psalm 130: 1-4

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Place: SGBC, NJ

Psalm 130: 1: <<A Song of degrees.>> Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD.

Only those God loves, only those God chose to save, experience this psalm. We experience it many times. Many things bring us down to the depths: painful providence, persecution, trouble such as opposition, loss, rejection. But worst of all, our sin brings us down to the depths.

Worldly religion classifies men into Christians and sinners, as though they are different. God does make his child to differ. God alone does so. But God's saints are sinners. We are sinners saved by grace.

The Lord sanctified Jonah. But Jonah fled from the Lord's presence. He refused to go where God sent him. So the Lord cast Jonah into the depths of the sea. But it was Jonah's sin that was the depths for Jonah.

Jonah 2: 3: For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me...4: Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight;...5: The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul:...7: When my soul fainted within me... 8: They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

The Lord gave the parable of the publican. He illustrates a man in the depths.

Luke 18:13: And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

God will not let his child ever rise higher than being a mercy beggar.

Psalm 51:17: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

A haughty, proud, hard heart God will not receive. He said, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word" (Is 66: 2).

But our Substitute knows what it is to be in the depths. Christ knows what we suffer in the depths. Our Lord said Jonah is a picture of his suffering in the place of his people. David's psalms describe the depths our Savior suffered as he redeemed his people. Since Christ bore God's justice for his elect and redeemed us, our Lord will never cause us to go to the depths Christ suffered. But our Lord brings us into the depths to turn us to him alone! He puts prayer in our hearts to cry only to him!

Psalm 130: 1: Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. 2: Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

Is there not a great difference in our prayer when times are good and when we are in the depths?. "I cried unto thee, O Lord." We plead and beg the Lord, "Please, Lord, hear my voice." We stop demanding and we beg, "Let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications."

Title: Reverence Out of the Deep

Proposition: As painful as it is to be brought into the depths, God brings us there for our good and his glory. He creates reverence for God in our hearts and grows us in reverence through what our Lord teaches us in the depths.

Divisions: we will look at three things the Lord teaches us in the depths: 1) The Lord brings us to acknowledge that all we are is sin—**Psalm 130: 3: If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?** 2) The Lord teaches us that, due to Christ our Righteousness, he freely forgives us—

Psalm 130: 4: But *there is forgiveness with thee*, 3) The Lord teaches us that he does all this for us to create a fear of the Lord in us and to grow his child in reverence for the Lord—Psalm 130: 4: But *there is forgiveness with thee*, that thou mayest be feared.****

WE ARE SIN

Psalm 130: 3: If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?

The first thing we see that God reveals to us again and again in the depths is that we are only sin. God reveals his holiness! Doing so, God reveals that we are the sinner. He brings us to confess, “*If thou, LORD*”—if thou, holy LORD, righteous LORD, if thou the all-knowing LORD—“*shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?*” The Lord made Isaiah behold God in his holiness and brought Isaiah to confess his sin.

Isaiah 6: 1: In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple...[he heard the angels cry] 3:...Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory....5: Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Beholding the LORD in his holiness, Isaiah said, “*If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?*” The Lord makes it personal about ourselves, “Woe is ME! For I am undone; I am a man of unclean lips.” Beholding God’s holiness, he brings us to cry,

Job 15: 14: What *is* man, that he should be clean? and *he which is* born of a woman, that he should be righteous? 15: Behold, he putteth no trust in his saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in his sight. 16: How much more abominable and filthy *is* man, which drinketh iniquity like water?

Job 25: 4: How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean *that is* born of a woman? 5: Behold even to the moon, and it shineth not; yea, the stars are not pure in his sight. 6: How much less man, *that is* a worm? and the son of man, *which is* a worm?

When we behold our sin, God brings us to cry for mercy as an undeserving sinner. Unworthy of God’s favor. Deserving his wrath. Corrupt, wretched, loathsome as a leper. As a beast before the Lord. The chief of sinners. That is true repentance that only God gives. Most likely David wrote this psalm as a believer. What did David cry when he was in the depths?

Psalm 51:4: Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, *and* be clear when thou judgest.

Beholding the LORD in his holiness, David said, “*If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?*” No man could stand if God marked iniquities!

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

That is true of every sinner who is yet dead in sins and it is true of God’s saints due to our sin-nature. As an aged believer, sanctified by God and made holy by Christ through the Holy Spirit, Paul said, “*I am the chief of sinners!*” God will keep his saints confessing that all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Is 64: 6). David prayed,

Psalm 143: 1: Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, *and* in thy righteousness. 2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

Proverbs 20:9: Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

The apostle John, that apostle who loved the Lord, included himself when he said,

1 John 1: 8: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10: If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

The gospel is not for good men. There are none good but God. Men who think they are good have no need of Christ. The gospel is for sinners. And the gospel is for believing sinners.

Here is pardon for transgressions past
It matters not how black they are cast
Oh my soul with wonder view
For sins to come there is pardon too

The Holy Spirit brings those he sanctifies to continually, personally, own ourselves to be the sinner. David cried to the Lord alone and said,

Psalm 51: 3: For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH GOD

Psalm 130: 4: But there is forgiveness with thee,...

The good news that God graciously reveals to his child in the depths is that there is forgiveness with God. Holy God who we sin against, who we despised and rejected by our sin, sent his only begotten Son for chosen sinners. This is the amazing grace of our God! In everlasting love and grace, though his elect sinned in Adam, though we are born-corrupt, God our Father sent his only begotten Son to lay down his life in our place.

Romans 5: 6: For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7: For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. 8: But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

God's own Son took flesh and bore the sin and curse of his elect on the cross. It is in Christ on the cross that God reveals and magnifies his holiness and righteousness in the heart of his child. God will by no means clear the guilty. His holiness demands every sinner must die. So in his holiness, God sent his Son and Christ willingly took the place of every elect child who God everlastingly loved. Christ Jesus propitiated God for his people. He purged the sins of his people. "The chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed!" (Is 53:5).

Romans 5: 20: Where sin abounded grace did much more abound 21: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Not only does God reveal the glory of his holiness on the cross, but God also reveals his glory by forgiving each one who Christ justified, even though our sin is against him! By forgiving each one for whom Christ died, God glorifies himself in our hearts and brings us to rejoice and praise and honor the Lord.

Jeremiah 33: 8: And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. 9: And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Daniel 9: 9: To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

Let's say someone sins against us. It is one sinner sinning against another sinner. And our fleshly nature is not to forgive. But God who is holy—because he is holy—forgives his child who Christ justified though we sin against him and him only!

Isaiah 55: 8: For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Now hear why God said that.

Isaiah 55: 7: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8: For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

God's thoughts are not our thoughts in that there is forgiveness with God. God's ways are not our ways in that God will have mercy on us and abundantly pardon us.

Micah 7: 18: Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy. 19: He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. 20: Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, *and* the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.

Thankfully, our Lord not only forgives us the first hour but every day the Spirit brings us to confess our sins and every day our holy Father forgives us for Christ's sake.

1 John 1: 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Oh, what holy, holy, holy love of God our Father in Christ our Righteousness!

Could we with ink the oceans fill
And were the skies of parchment made
And every stalk on earth a quill
And every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above
Would drain the ocean dry
Nor could the scroll contain the whole
Though stretched from sky to sky

THAT THOU MAYEST BE FEARED

Psalm 130: 4: But there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared.

By bringing us into the depths to behold our sin and God's holiness, by God forgiving us for the sake of his Son, the Spirit of God creates fear and reverence in the new heart of his child. And through these depths, through God our Father's faithful and just forgiveness of our sin through Christ our Righteousness, God grows us in reverence for him.

Law and judgment and condemnation do not create godly fear. It creates self-righteous Pharisees. Law creates a person who is obedient outwardly but hates God inwardly. Only God's free forgiveness for Christ's sake melts the hearts of his children. Again, remember what God our Father declared in Jeremiah 33,

Jeremiah 33:9: And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Isaiah 55: 13: Instead of the thorn, shall come up the fir tree; and instead of the brier, shall come up the myrtle tree and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign *that shall not be cut off.*

That is what David is declaring in Psalm 32.

Psalm 32: 1: «*A Psalm of David, Maschil.*» *Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2: Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*

Our triune God created that blessedness in David by bringing him into the depths, bringing him to confess his sin from a new heart in which is no guile, and revealing to David there is forgiveness with God that he might be feared.

Psalm 32: 3: *When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. 4: For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.*

When in the depths we try to keep silent, refusing to confess our own sins to God. But God will keep his hand heavy upon us until we are brought to the end of self. Then we confess our sins to God.

Psalm 32: 5: *I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. 6: For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. 7: Thou *art* my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.*

Lord willing, next time we will look more at the back half of Psalm 130. But, briefly, here is what true fear and reverence for God produces in his child.

One, having experienced his power to save and forgive by Christ, true reverence for God makes us less hasty to act and judge and condemn and more willing to wait on the Lord and hope in his word. This is so concerning ourselves and concerning our brethren who are in trouble.

Psalm 130: 5: I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. 6: My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

Two, having experienced God's holy forgiveness for Christ's sake, reverence for God makes us use only the gospel of Christ, beseeching our brethren to look to Christ and hope in him alone.

Psalm 130: 7: Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. 8 And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Amen!