



Sermon, Sunday September 8, 2024

“I Wait for the Lord”

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 130:1-8 ¹Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. ²Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications! ³If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? ⁴But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. ⁵I wait for the Lord; my soul waits, and in his word I hope; ⁶my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning. ⁷O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. ⁸It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

Introduction: The lives of those who cry out

Today’s text, Psalm 130, begins with the words, **“Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.”**

Everyone cries out when they are in a desperate situation. We often see the cries of people in desperate situations through the media. We saw the cries of parents who lost their children due to Israel's indiscriminate military attack in the Gaza Strip, Palestine. Also, last October, we saw Israeli citizens crying as they lost their families to attacks by Hamas. People cry out like this when they experience things that are difficult to handle.

However, can we say that people who do not experience such terrible tribulations live peaceful lives? My answer is ‘no’. People's lives may seem peaceful on the outside, but their insides are crying out for help and for attention.

Body: Christian life waiting for the Lord

The psalmist in today’s text confesses that he cries out **‘from the depths.’** The depths he speaks of are darkness and chaos. People cannot escape from the depths with money, fame, power, and pleasure. The depths that the psalmist confesses today are the sin mentioned in verse 3. In verse 3, the psalmist says, **“If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?”**

What causes people to die in their daily lives is when their hearts become filled with despair. The cause of this despair is sin. The sin that the Bible speaks of does not simply refer to moral wrongdoing. The Bible says that the fundamental force that destroys our lives is sin. People cry out because they are unable to overcome the sin that destroys our lives.

When we look back on our lives with the slightest conscience, we realize that our lives are filled with a lot of hypocrisy. Even people who are religious at a high level are secular in some ways. Furthermore, even people who are nice on the outside can be selfish.

Look at the Pharisees in the Gospel. They were more religious, moral, and conscientious than other people, but they could not escape hypocrisy and pride. So, they resorted to the law, but it was far from perfecting life. This is why all humans have no choice but to cry out.



So, in verse 3 of today's text, the psalmist confesses, **'If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?'**. This means that humans cannot hide hypocrisy, pride, confusion, darkness, and despair from the presence of the Lord who pierces our souls. The closer we get to the Lord, the more clearly our shame and confusion become apparent.

Have you ever stood before the Lord in this desperate situation of crying? In fact, many people, faced with the despair of life, try to ignore it or find easy solutions.

However, the psalmist in today's text is different. He confesses in verse 5 of the text, **"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope."** Furthermore, in verse 6, the psalmist confesses that my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.

The reason why the psalmist waits for the Lord with a more earnest heart than the watchman is because only the Lord can solve his problem of sin. In verse 4 of today's text, the psalmist confesses that the Lord has **'forgiveness'** and in verse 7, the Lord has **'steadfast love and great power to redeem.'** This means that only through the Lord can we escape from the darkness and chaos described as **'the depths.'** Because the psalmist knew this, he cried out with great desperation, **'My soul waits for the Lord.'** Do we also have this kind of desperate waiting?

Christians also spend many days waiting in their daily lives. Some people wait to be admitted to the university of their choice, and some people wait to get a job at the company of their choice. Additionally, young men and women wait for the day to get married, and those preparing for business wait for the day to start their business. Christians also need this kind of waiting. However, Christians who believe in the Lord must be able to wait for something more ultimate.

Have you ever waited on the Lord in your life? In other words, have you ever waited for the time of salvation in your life? Also, have you ever waited for the time when your life will be free from ultimate sin?

Do you think that waiting for the Lord is of any use, when you are having a hard time making a living right now? Please don't forget. A deep encounter with the Lord, which we want to experience but cannot experience and sometimes think is something we are not interested in, is not something that is forced.

Jesus said to these people, **'He who has ears, let him hear.'** People who believe in the Lord do not live depending on the standards set by the world. They are interested in how the Lord's will is revealed in their lives. They do not worry about what to eat, what to drink, or what to wear, but like a woman who has lost her drachmas (Greek ten drachmas, each worth about a day's wages) she carries a lamp and search for coin (A soul that the Lord is looking for) all night long. (Luke 15:8)

But will all the problems in our lives be completely solved just because we wait on the Lord and have a spiritual experience of meeting the Lord? To conclude, the only way to escape from 'the depth' that the psalmist talks about and meet the Lord is through the death of our ego. Unless our ego dies, we cannot completely escape from sin and self-centeredness. No matter how close people are it is difficult to resolve minor differences. What is clear is that if our ego lives, the existence of darkness and confusion will not disappear.

So, what should we do in these situations? How can we live and experience freedom from these problems?

Conclusion: Our Only Hope

The answer to this question is that we are alive, but we live as if we are already dead. In the history of Christianity, this was realized in Jesus Christ. John 1:14 says, **"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."**



The experience of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection is both an experience of death and an experience of life. Through Jesus Christ, we can wait for the Lord with a more earnest heart than a watchman waiting for the morning.

As Christians living today, we make many mistakes and there are many things we do not know. Also, there are many uncertainties in our lives. So, the darkness and confusion of the depth that the psalmist speaks of in today's text affects our lives as believers in Jesus.

However, we must endure it while facing it. God's mercy allows us to experience the light of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on the cross. This means that the liberation from sin and death that has occurred in our lives through faith in Jesus Christ is the deepest life experience of our lives.

Please keep in mind that the only hope in our lives is given through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and through this, we hope you will find hope in life amidst despair.

