



Isaiah's Reality

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WEEK 3

Biblical Moment

Thirsting for the Living God

Please have your team split in partners and read together and answer the questions at the end:

“O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.” Psalms 63:1 NKJV

All he could hear for miles were their feet hitting the sand and the wind's gentle breeze. He could smell the sweat on every person accompanying him as the heat was pressing in on every side. There were many moments to think and meditate during their stay. As he reflected, words drifted out from his innermost being, Psalm 63.

Many biblical commentators say that David wrote Psalm 63 during the record of I Samuel 24. If that is accurate, then his temporary breakthrough was just around the corner with Saul. David's time in the wilderness drew him closer to his Savior. He was mesmerized in knowing God. There was nothing else that would or could fill the gap and the longing he had for Him.

Verse one describes David's heart as seeking God (*the attempt to find or to have and achieve*) early in the day. He was also seeking God with an earnest heart (*with intense search, and seriousness*).



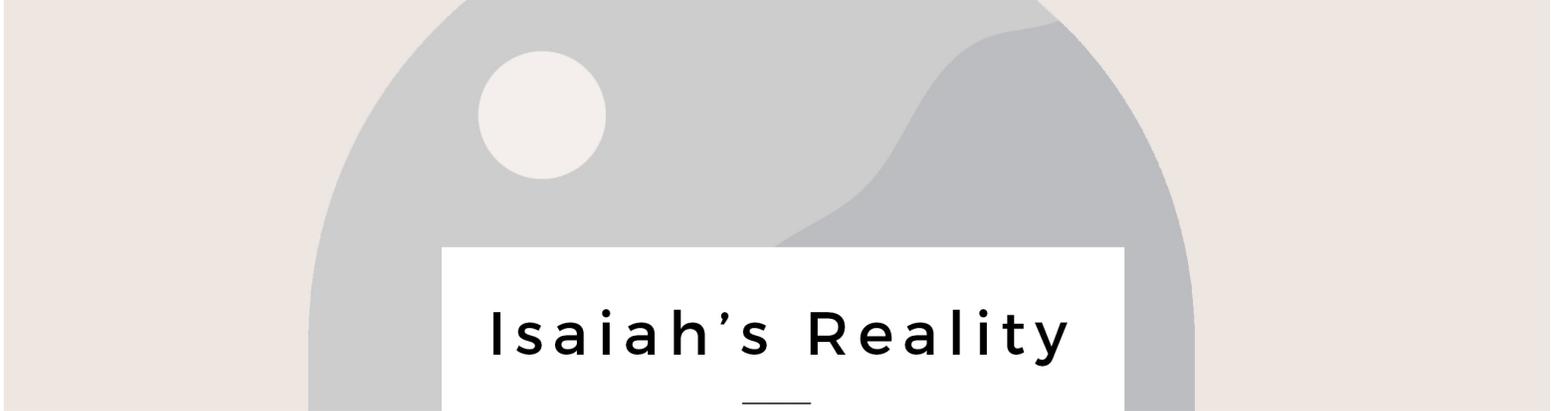
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David knew what the wilderness was like because he spent many days and nights there. In those moments, He heard God quite frequently. Being in a spiritual, mental or physical wilderness can usually lead us to a desperate heart. When we reach a place where survival is imperative to getting out and, in the getting out, we learn where to plant our feet, where to find rest and gain nourishment. In the wilderness, we have a longing to escape and the only way is through the power of the Holy Spirit living within us. Our stay time, however, depends on what we do with that power.

Many times, being in the wilderness can change us. It often takes longer for some to understand that being in the wilderness can transform us. Some of the survivor tools are never picked up, let alone known of their usage. This process of giving up and giving in to the surroundings can kill thousands rather than shaping many.

David knew his surroundings were dry (*bare and lacking adornment*). I love doing word searches, I know it sounds weird, but when I spend time researching a word or two, beautiful conversations with God happen and my meditation with Him is sweeter. The word “dry” can also be used in a theatrical setting as a slang word meaning forgetting one’s lines in a play or musical. In a spiritual sense, being “dry” is apparent to other believers. The “dry” believer isn’t always familiar with scripture or its context. Perhaps boundary lines are not as they should be in relationships. We can sense thought patterns that don’t align to God’s Word. A healthy spiritual perspective is betrayed by the words and actions they choose to pursue.



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Have we become dry? Have we forgotten the true love of our life? Have we blended in with our surroundings? We have all been through this. For myself, it sometimes seems I'm on a perpetual pendulum.

As we continue to look further in verse one, David saw the wilderness as weary (*tired, bored and sick of unending sameness*). When we are in love with Jesus, we never get sick or tired of Him. We want more and more of Him! Anything contrary to God will leave us lacking. Like David, we'll begin to see this sickness present in others as well who are trying to avoid the same condition.

Dying to self is difficult at best because we are at God's mercy. Even as I write this, I realize that dying to self also proves how much I trust in God's sovereignty, His inherent nature to love me and supreme power to act on my behalf. It's easy to say, "Yes God, I'm ready to die". But am I? Why spend 40 years getting out of the wilderness when there was only 11 miles in the journey? Let God lead you and instruct you.

Ask yourself the tough questions. Evaluate your present spiritual condition today and yearn for God only, rather than the comfort of the wilderness. This is hard to do! I have pondered these questions quite frequently lately. I remember someone telling me that if I wanted out of the wilderness, I needed to make the decision to leave...

Questions for your Partner: Have you ever been dry in your spiritual walk? If so, how did you know? Who was affected by it? Is knowing Jesus truly your number one desire?