Wilderness/Promise #4 Pastor Kelvin Kauffeldt

November 21, 2021

**An Essential Discipleship Practice:**

*For enduring the wilderness and thriving on the other side*

(Psalm 103)

Wherever you find yourself – in the wilderness, on the way out of the wilderness or living in the promises of God, engaging in this essential discipleship practice will prove helpful. *“Psalm 103 is suited for all ages, appropriate for all persons and applicable to all conditions.”* Dennis Tucker Jr*.*

1. **Praise the LORD and forget not ALL his benefits!** (vs. 1-2)
* Our praise needs to be both personal & wholehearted
* Our praise needs to be rooted in the fact that He is by nature holy (cf.1 Sam. 2:22, Rev. 4:8)
* And in our praise we must forget not ALL his benefits (cf. Lam. 3:22-23, Jos. 4)

**2. Recalling the promises of God personally helps fuel wholehearted praise** (vs. 3-5)

5 promises David recalls:

* Vs. 3 - God forgives ALL your sins (vs. 3) (cf. Rom. 3:23, Eph. 2:3, 1 John 1:9)

And heals all your diseases (cf. Isa. 53:5, 1 Pt. 2:24, Rev. 21:4)

* Vs. 4 – He redeems your life from the pit

And crowns you with love and compassion

* Vs. 5 – He satisfies your desires with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagles (cf. Isa. 40:27-31)

**3. Recalling the promises of God for his people deepens our appreciation and understanding of His character** (vs.6-19)

* Vs. 6 - He works out what is right and just for the oppressed.
* Vs. 7 - He reveals himself to be gracious
* Vs. 8 – He is compassionate & gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love (cf. Ex.34: 6)
* Vs. 9 – He will **not** always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever
* Vs. 10 – He does **not** treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities

The rationale for His all-encompassing love, forgiveness, and compassion is rooted in his nature (1 John 4:16, “*God is love”*) and His divine remembrance (vs. 14)

An indication that we have the right understanding of his all-encompassing love is we **fear him** (vs. 11, 13, 17).

“Grace is unmerited, but it should provoke a response in the recipient” (vs. 20-22) – Dennis Tucker Jr.

***Praise the LORD and forget not ALL his benefits!***