



Sermon Questions

Date: *June 11, 2023* | Scripture: *Psalm 88*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. What art has helped you process or feel your deep, dark emotions like this psalm? What songs or musicals or paintings or other?
3. What are the experiences in your life that have left you feeling these feelings and asking these questions?
4. Do you allow yourself to come to God with this level of honesty? Do we allow ourselves to come to each other with this level of honesty in these dark places?
5. What makes it hard to sit with people in this level of pain and honesty? How might we sit with them well?
6. How was this psalm sung by Jesus? How can we sing this psalm about Jesus?

Inward Grace in Action

Pastor Rob made the following statement at Capital Pres Fairfax this Sunday: "when the darkness comes we all run to our God." In other words, suffering often brings to light the things we trust in to give us comfort, protection, and purpose.

Where do you go in darkness? Alcohol, drugs, or some other substance or addiction? Screens, whether Netflix binging, Instagram swiping, YouTube, or porn? Other destructive indulgence? Work? Filling family schedules to be busy with soccer, swimming, gymnastics or something else to make ourselves feel indispensable? All these are false gods that do not provide the solution to suffering. At best they offer distraction; more likely than not, they only add more problems.

- Where have you turned in the past?
- Where do you find yourself turning now?
- What might it look like to turn to God?

ACTION: Reread this psalm with your "functional gods" in mind and ask God to be more real and present to you in your suffering than they are.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Genesis 32:22-32
- Psalm 22
- Lamentations 2:1-22
- Luke 23:32-49
- 2 Timothy 4:6-18
- Hebrews 12:12-24

Serve: there are lots of opportunities to serve in our church family. [Click Here](#) to serve as a volunteer.

Pray for Tom and Jane, our ministry partners with Serge in North Africa, as they return to the States. They are working with their ministry to distribute the Arabic "Gospel Centered Life" curriculum around the world.

Reach out if you need assistance:

- Call our church office at 703.821.0800
- Request aid from our Deacons' Fund at deaconsfund@mcleanpres.org