



Sermon Questions

Date: *July 2, 2023* | Scripture: *Psalm 61*

1. Read the passage from the sermon together. What do you find convicting? What do you find challenging? What do you find confusing?
2. David was well acquainted with desperation and feeling overwhelmed. Read 1 Samuel 26 as one example of David in such a situation. What emotions would you be feeling?
3. What do you do with those emotions when you feel them? Where do they lead you?
4. How does Psalm 61 channel and direct these emotions?
5. Have you ever felt isolated from the people of God? If so, when? What was that like?
6. How have you experienced restoration with the people of God? How have you experienced restoration with God himself?
7. How was this psalm sung by Jesus? How can we sing this psalm about Jesus?

Inward Grace in Action (continued on the back)

For many of us, crying out “Lead me to the rock that is higher than I” is the last thing we want to do in crisis. A far more comfortable reaction for sinful hearts in the DC area is to blaze our own trail up a far more manageable hill. In other words, we like to believe we are capable of saving ourselves. The “rock” that we look to is far lower than the Rock of Ages. It is something we can attain on our own which will not expose our weakness—but also not ultimately deliver us from crisis.

The apostle Paul grapples with weakness, dependence, and his relationship with Jesus in 2 Corinthians 12, a passage in which he famously writes the following:

Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Cor 12:8-9)

This is a beautiful verse we love to meditate on when we’re not weak, but often becomes bitter medicine when we need it most.

WORSHIP THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Reflect on these Scriptures:

- Exodus 3:1-12
- 1 Samuel 26
- Psalm 27
- Luke 1:67-79
- Acts 2:22-39
- 2 Cor 12:1-10

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

Pray for Bethany House as they do the hard work of helping survivors of domestic abuse through crisis intervention, short-term housing, life advancement programming, and trauma recovery.

Reach out if you need assistance:

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

- Is it embarrassing to admit when your heart is faint?
- Do you attempt to live the Christian life in a way that never exposes your weakness? If so, how?
- What would it look like for you to live out David's example of praying "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I"?

ACTION: Take some time to read 2 Corinthians 12 and Psalm 61 back-to-back this week. Process your own relationship with weakness, dependence, and Jesus. It might be helpful to journal, write out a prayer, or create your own psalm.