



“A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah. ...Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You, thus will I bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name... My soul follows hard after You; Your right hand upholds me.” Psalm 63:1, 3 – 5, 8

This psalm’s title gives us a hint into the life of a worshipper – “A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.”

The name Judah means “praise”. Could we not then read this title – “A Psalm of David when he was in the Wilderness of Praise?” Every worshipper at sometime or another will face this eventuality – he or she is called to offer praise and worship while they yet feel very dry and desert-like spiritually. It is in these moments that the real motive for our praise is uncovered. Do we praise God because it is an expectation others have put upon us and we have simply “fallen in line” to please them? Do we praise God because of the personal sense of satisfaction we receive; the emotional uplift the music brings us or is the reason we worship because we are really attempting to impress others by our talent, quality of voice, enthusiasm, new outfit, or that they may see how dedicated and important we are to the church? Could it be that we have been taught that praise opens the heavenly realm for our prayer requests and at this moment we are in desperate need, so we offer praise as a means of achieving our ends? Selah.

Deserts and wastelands produce something no other type of climate can create – a genuine thirst. Water is so scarce that even your skin dries out. An awareness begins to arise in your thoughts that water is not merely a commodity of convenience but it vital for life!

Our genuine motive of praise is uncovered in this Desert of Judah. Is the thirst of your soul for that which is material in nature – or does your soul thirst – genuinely thirst for God? It is in the desert that we discover that not only do we need Him above all else, but we have also discovered that He is worthy of praise – even in the desert – even when we are feeling nothing of spiritual or emotional value.

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