

# Group Questions- *I want to believe, but... Week 4*

*Silent/Heartless God*

10/15/23 – Pastor Kirby

## *Getting to Know Me Questions:*

- What is something you have done recently that you are proud of?
- What is one of your top 3 pet peeves?

## *Into the Bible Questions:*

- What's something from this week's teaching that you learned, that stood out, interesting?
- When someone is in the middle of great pain, what do/could you tell them about God?
- Have you ever had someone ask you why God lets bad things happen? How'd your conversation go
- Read Psalm 143:1
- When was that time in which you expressed the same thing David did in verse 1? 'God, are you listening?'
- We talked about 3 things that happen in our "valleys?"
  - Pain in the valley
  - Prizes in the valley
  - Path out of the valley
- **READ:** Psalm 143:3-4, 7
- Which of these expressions of David do you connect with the most?
- Pastor Kirby said: "When walking through the dark valley, remember what God has done." Do you find this easy or difficult? Why?
- **READ:** Psalm 143:6
- What are some of the imagery you see in this verse? How does it help us understand our connection with God?
- **READ:** Psalm 143:10
- David said "Teach me to do your will." David, this spiritual "giant" still wanted to be taught. How does the idea of not knowing, or desiring to learn help us understand our pain or a path out?
- **LISTEN:** There were two songs mentioned "*God moves in a mysterious way*" by William Cowper and "*There's within my heart a melody (He Keeps Me Singing)*" by Luther Bridgers. Choose one or both, find lyrics on your phone.

## *Application Questions:*

- "Children need attention like a plant needs sun and water." - Psychology professor Rudolf Dreikurs – This week reflect on the ways you have acted/spoken etc in order to get attention. Either from people or from God. What do you think you're missing?  
In your prayer/devotional times, instead of praying with your hands folded, pray with your hand open pointed heavenward. Indicating the desire for God to fill you up.

Week 1: On-Demand God

Week 2: Buzz-Kill God

Week 3: Goosies (Goosebump) God

Week 4: Heartless/Silent God

Matthew 11:2-3

<sup>2</sup>When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Psalm 143

Psalm 143

<sup>1</sup> Lord, hear my prayer,

listen to my cry for mercy;

in your faithfulness and righteousness

come to my relief.

<sup>2</sup> Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.

<sup>3</sup> The enemy pursues me,  
he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in the darkness  
like those long dead.

<sup>4</sup> So my spirit grows faint within me;  
my heart within me is dismayed.

<sup>5</sup> I remember the days of long ago;  
I meditate on all your works  
and consider what your hands have done.

<sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to you;  
I thirst for you like a parched land.

<sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, Lord;  
my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me  
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

<sup>8</sup> Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.

Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I entrust my life.

<sup>9</sup> Rescue me from my enemies, Lord,  
for I hide myself in you.

<sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.

<sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, Lord, preserve my life;  
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.

<sup>12</sup> In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;  
destroy all my foes,  
for I am your servant.

Psalm 143:1

<sup>1</sup> Lord, hear my prayer,  
listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness  
come to my relief.

'Children need attention like a plant needs sun and water.' - Psychology Professor Rudolf Dreikurs

## **PAIN IN THE VALLEY**

### **1. The pain of no help**

Psalm 143:3

The enemy pursues me,  
he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in the darkness  
like those long dead.

### **2. The Pain of no Heart**

Psalm 143:4

So my spirit grows faint within me;  
my heart within me is dismayed.

### **3. The Pain of No Hope**

Psalm 143:7

Answer me quickly, Lord;  
my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me  
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.

## **PRIZE IN THIS VALLEY**

### **1. The Prize of Repentance**

Psalm 143:2

Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.

## 2. The Prize of Remembrance

Psalm 143:5

I remember the days of long ago;  
I meditate on all your works  
and consider what your hands have done.

When walking through the dark valley, remember what God has done.

*God moves in a mysterious way* by William Cowper

“God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform.  
He plants his footsteps in the sea  
And rides upon the storm.

“You fearful saints, fresh courage take;  
The clouds you so much dread  
Are big with mercy and shall break  
In blessings on your head.”

## 3. The Prize of Reliance

Psalm 143:6

I spread out my hands to you;  
I thirst for you like a parched land.

Proverbs 3:5-7 (MSG)

Trust God from the bottom of your heart;  
don't try to figure out everything on your own.  
Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;  
he's the one who will keep you on track.  
Don't assume that you know it all.  
Run to God!

## PATH OUT OF THE VALLEY

### 1. The Path Of Prayer

Answer me; show me; rescue me; teach me (vss. 7, 8, 9,10)

Jeremiah 33:1-3

<sup>1</sup> While Jeremiah was still confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the Lord came to him a second time: <sup>2</sup> “This is what the Lord says, he who made the earth, the Lord who formed it and

established it—the Lord is his name: <sup>3</sup>‘Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’

## 2. The Path Of Praise

Psalm 143:10

Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.

Psalm 91:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

<sup>2</sup> I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust.”

*There's within my heart a melody (He Keeps Me Singing):* by Luther Bridgers

“There's within my heart a melody;  
Jesus whispers sweet and low,  
"Fear not, I am with you, peace, be still,"  
in all of life's ebb and flow.

“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,  
sweetest name I know,  
fills my every longing,  
keeps me singing as I go.”

## 3. The Path Of Practice

Psalm 143:10

Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.