

Sermon Discussion Questions | July 16, 2017

A Psalm of Redemption

Psalm 143

1. Today we closed out the book of Ruth. Take a moment and share a highlight or two, or some insight you've come to during this series of sermons.
2. This week's message focused on the fact that the characters and story of Ruth taught us a lot, but may have left us wondering about their emotions and thoughts. Have you ever read a story in the Bible and wondered what it might have felt like to be in their shoes? Share some examples.
3. While the book of Ruth may not share a lot of that detail, there is a book that is excellent at showing us those emotions and thoughts and that is the Psalms. Pastor Jim focused on Psalm 143. Have someone read Psalm 143 and try to recall, what did Pastor Jim say about this passage of Scripture.
4. We are all in some way identified in the characters of Ruth. We all have longings that need answers, all need some form of rescuing. How does Psalm 143 speak into your circumstances? Where do you find echoes of your own questions, longings and emotions? How has Jesus met those or maybe, how is He at work meeting them?
5. Pastor Jim mentioned three things the person who needs rescuing is asking God (or should ask Him) to do. We need to ask him for a sign of His faithfulness and love, we need guidance and direction, and finally, we need His rescue. How might this be true for you right now? Is there a job situation, a health issue, a relationship question? How might you see this in someone else's life?
6. Pastor Jim made an important point about rescue: Rescue may look different than what we expect, but ultimately our prayer is for God to step in and intervene. Have you seen this in your own life? Has he answered your prayer and intervened but not in the way you expected?
7. The enemy we are facing, the thing we need rescuing from, may look like our circumstances (cancer, unemployment, depression, loneliness, addiction...) but ultimately and truly the enemy is Satan. Pastor Jim encouraged us to find our psalm, the one that best reflects our desire and emotions, and cry out to God. He encouraged us to move from an intellectual view/approach to Christianity into a genuine faith. As you close, take time to share how you are feeling, where you are in need of him intervening and rescuing you, and pray for each other. Encourage each other with Scripture and maybe your favorite psalm.