DIGGING DEEPER

ENGAGING WITH THE SERMON

CULTURE CHECK PART 5: SEEKING GOD
AUGUST 23, 2020 | PSALM 63

02

WHAT IS DIGGING DEEPER?

Two of the main pillars of Gracelife Church is gathering and growing in which we encourage each of our attenders to be a part of a community that gathers together with the intention of growing in Christ. However, we understand that gathering in community is a little complicated right now. Thankfully, during the summer our community groups take a break so that makes things a little less complicated. We wanted to continue to provide a way for you to dig deeper into the message whether individually, in your d-groups, or sitting around the table with your family so feel free to use these questions as a guide for discussion for whatever kind of gathering you feel comfortable with or as a tool for personal reflection.

UNDERSTANDING CULTURE

Culture: Unspoken rules for relationships with others within a community.

Gospel Doctrine (the message of Jesus) produces a culture; When what you believe on paper matches what you carry out in practice a beautiful, compelling, and powerful culture is created (Gospel culture)

- Have you ever considered the culture of a church before this sermon series?
- Why is it so vital to dig into this topic?
- Whether you have recognized it or not, you have contributed to the church's culture; does what you believe on paper match what you carry out in practice? How does your personal culture influence the church's culture?

Of the 3 aspects of culture that have already been discussed - welcoming (open), walking in the light (honest), and warring (humble) - which is a strength for you and which do you struggle with?

03

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

INTRODUCTION

Gospel culture without Gospel doctrine leads to a church that is fragile.

A fragile church is sentimental, easily moved, shallow, superficial, delicate, trivial, and on edge. Everything is okay until the storm hits. It's a jar of clay without the treasure on the inside (2 Corinthians 4:7-9) to keep it intact.

> Have you ever been a part of a church like this? What was your experience like? What happened when a crisis happened?

2020 is a crisis but not of our own making; David's crisis (tsunami - effect) was one of his own making (2 Samuel 11 - the earthquake, cause), it was the fruit of his own sinful choices.

How have you responded to a crisis in the past? Ones out of your control and ones that were the fruit of your choices?

Psalm 63 is David's response - he seeks God. David knows...*"We deserve the hammer of judgement to fall on us but we find something scandalous, we find something surprising; God actually has more grace for us. God loves to give his people a fresh start, even after they have sinned" (Tommy)* because he has experienced it.

- Have you ever thought that God was done with you; that is he so tired of you that he is going to release you from being his follower?
- Reflect on that time, how did God reveal his grace to you and his love for you? How does remembering this encourage you to seek God more regularly?

04

GOD IS OUR DESIRE

Psalm 63:1-4

David's desire for God came from recognizing the transforming power of God throughout his life (it was his habit) thus he went back to what worked for comfort - seeking and beholding the Lord: 2 Corinthians 3:18

"Glory" in Hebrew means heavy or weighty - *"God is more heavy, more able to capture our attention, than all the things happening around us"* - David was so caught up in seeking God's glory that he forgot everything that was going on around Him

What is so heavy that it is capturing your attention?

David had seen this glory and transformation in his own life; it had captured his attention; he had seen something so wonderful that it changed him.

- Think about something that you were so in awe of that it changed your demeanor, if only for a few minutes (the rocket launch for Jacob Needleman). What caused this feeling of awe and wonder?
- Now, think about a time in your life when beholding God and his "Hesed" (unconditional, covenantal faithfulness) that you were transformed in some way - this could have been in a season of comfort or discomfort. How did this affect your relationship with Him? Does remembering this increase your likelihood of seeking Him more? Why?

The more we seek God the more He becomes our desire no matter what is happening in our lives

What current habits or rhythms occur in your life that increase your desire for God? What are some things that you do instead of seeking God (not that they are bad, just incomplete - counseling, talking to doctors, engaging with your friends)? Are there unhealthy things you turn to (food, drugs, alcohol, porn, binge watching Netflix, social media)?

05

GOD IS OUR DELIGHT

Psalm 63:5-8

"In the shadow of your wings, I will sing for joy. My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me"

We can rejoice in Him because the more we seek Him the more secure we feel in him as he meets our every need. Just as our thirst is satisfied by water, seeking satisfies our soul.

How can you tell when your soul is "thirsty" for God? How is your mindset? What does your response to a crisis look like? How do you act toward others? Think of some examples and compare it to a time in your life when your soul has been satisfied.

GOD IS OUR DEFENSE

Psalm 63:9-11

David's understanding of Gospel doctrine - his belief in who God is and His love for him - came from a culture of seeking God as demonstrated in David's confidence to leave his circumstance in God's hand; therefore he was not fragile!

- Have you ever fully surrendered a situation that you were in to God in the way David does? What holds you back from doing so?
- Consider your faith journey, are you truly believing in God's love for you or do you believe it is just something that goes on a Hallmark card to try to make you feel better? Do you cope or seek after God?

"Hurl yourself into the arms of the one you have offended, moment by moment, right now, and never stop doing so as long as you live - that's what it means to seek God and if you build that as a habit and rhythm in your life it will become involuntary, it will be your go to response"

Tommy Clayton - Pastor