

THE BIG IDEA: The deep things of God are found in the deep waters of life.

The Take-Off

Remember that the Remix actually brings the old into the new and makes one from two

We've talked about how important it is to know the original song - the truth of the gospel from the beginning - in order to produce the new sound

We bring God's image and glory into the empty places - or as we talked about last week - the messy middle

The priests had to carry the ark (that's God's glory and presence) into the messy and violent Jordan river BEFORE the waters parted

They had to step into the mess (the Middle Expecting Something Supernatural) to get to the miracle

When you're stepping into the mess, you'd better be secure in what you know, and we talked about how creeds can help us with that - specifically The Apostles Creed which is a 105 word touchstone of gospel truth

This morning, we're going to spend some time in Psalm 42 and I want us to see what it looks like to go into the deep

The deep is a place of...

1. Desperation (vx. 1-2)

- a. Listen to the language: "Deer pants" "I long" "I thirst" "Where can I go?"
- b. When we say we want the deep things of God, we typically think theology, doctrine, and big words
- c. But **the deep things of God are found in the deep waters of life**
- d. By and large, we struggle to be in the vulnerable place of desperation
- e. It feels out of control and hard
- f. We skip to the part about God being good all the time and how all the time God is good and forget the desperation of needing Him to be good at THIS time

2. Emotion (vv. 3-5)

- a. Let me repeat what I said earlier: we have equated knowledge with depth
- b. But that means we have equated emotion with being shallow
- c. I believe the psalmist equates emotion with courage
- d. The psalmist is crying constantly, his heart is breaking, he is mourning the loss of "church as usual"
- e. Even in the midst of knowing that God is good all the time, he is bold enough to say he is discouraged and sad.
- f. We'll never have the depth that God wants for us if we can't move past the "I'm fine" epidemic (esp. when we actually aren't fine)

3. Engagement (vv. 5-6)

- a. Have you ever talked with someone who was disengaged? OMGoodness, right?
- b. The psalmist is completely engaged as he finds himself in deep waters
- c. He's doing the work of finding words to describe what he is experiencing and feeling
 - He's like a deer (v. 1)
 - Tears are his food (v. 2)
 - He's mourning what used to be (v. 4)
 - He's bringing God into the discouragement (v. 6)
 - He's still talking to God (v. 9)
 - He's talking to himself (vv. 5, 11)
- d. The point here is that he isn't numbing himself out of the hard place
- e. There's no "it's 5 o'clock somewhere" or "I just need a glass to take the edge off" language here
- f. Just a man in a desperate place full of emotion actively engaged in the hard work that depth requires

4. Power (vv. 7-8)

- a. Finally, the deep is a place of power, but not our power
- b. From the human perspective, we could say that the deep is a place of powerlessness, but it is in that place that we become aware of God's great power

- c. Verse 7 has always drawn me in - the deep calling to the deep (NIV) and waves and breakers
- d. As I was at the beach this week, I thought about this verse so much
- e. To get to the deep, you've got to get through the breakers - they are relentless and can make us feel as if we've been Dealt Everything Except Peace
- f. But God actually uses the waves and breakers to Detach Everything Except (His) Presence
- g. That is what it means to go deep with God - to allow him to detach everything except presence from us

The Landing

If I was 1,2,5, or 10 miles out from the shore all alone, my desires would be limited to one thing: rescue

“Rescue me from the mud; don’t let me sink any deeper! Save me from those who hate me, and pull me from these deep waters. Don’t let the floods overwhelm me, or the deep waters swallow me, or the pit of death devour me.”

Psalms 69:14-15 NLT

God is able to save, but we have to admit our need to be saved

He is our hope but we can't see that until we're in places that seem hopeless

Trust is a must in the deep, and I want to close with this powerful promise from the God of the deep:

“He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless.”

Isaiah 40:29 NLT

Let's pray