

Lessons from the Prayer of King David Psalm 143



SURVIVING DESPERATION

Background

- *David had been crowned King*
- *Sinned with Bathsheba*
- *Amnon rapes half sister Tamar*
- *Absalom kills Amnon and is banished*
- Five years later Absalom begins a 4 year plot to overthrow David as King
- Turns the hearts of the people away from David
- Usurps the Throne

Background

- David hears of the overthrow
- David understand that the people have turned from him
- Decides to leave rather than see Jerusalem destroyed
- David and his mighty men and his family leave the city
- David is covering his head and weeping as he goes
- All he has worked for comes crashing down in a day

The Desperation

Psalm 143:1-6



The Prayer

Psalm 143:7-12



The Desperation

Psalm 143:1-6



The Desperation

¹ Hear my prayer, O LORD,
Give ear to my supplications!
In Your faithfulness answer me,
And in Your righteousness.

² Do not enter into judgment
with Your servant,
For in Your sight no one living is righteous

The Desperation

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The Desperation

³ For the enemy has persecuted my soul;
He has crushed my life to the ground;
He has made me dwell in darkness,
Like those who have long been dead.

⁴ Therefore my spirit
is overwhelmed within me;
My heart within me is distressed.

The Desperation

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The Desperation

⁵ I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all Your works;
I muse on the work of Your hands.

⁶ I spread out my hands to You;
My soul *longs* for You like a thirsty land.

Selah

The Desperation

⁵ **I remember** the days of old;
I meditate on all Your works;
I muse on the work of Your hands.

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Selah

Rises above the circumstances and self-preoccupation

The Prayer

Psalm 143:7-12



**⁷ Answer me speedily, O LORD;
My spirit fails!
Do not hide Your face from me,
Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.**



⁷ Answer me speedily, O LORD;

My spirit fails!

**Do not hide Your face from me,
Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.**



The Cry of David

The Nature of God

**⁷ Answer me speedily, O LORD;
My spirit fails!
Do not hide Your face from me,
Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.**



Funeral of a young mother



That Night



Dad, I am scared –
can I sleep in your
bed with you?

It's Dark



It is darker than it has ever been before.

I cannot see you.

Is your face looking at me?

“Yes, my face is towards you.”

I can go to sleep now.

Illus: A story is told of a husband who had lost his wife and a daughter who had lost her mother. After the funeral some of the close relatives noticed the pain of the husband and asked him, "Do you want us to take your daughter away for a few days so that you can have some time to grieve?" The man replied, "No, we are going to face this together." So that night as the father was putting his daughter to bed she cried out, "Daddy, it is dark in here, may I sleep in your room?" His reply was, "Yes, you may sleep in my room."

As they went into the father's room, he turned off the light, his little girl cried out again, "Daddy it is dark in here too." The father said, "Yes baby, I know it is dark." Then the little girl said, "Daddy it is darker than it has ever been." The father replied, "Yes baby, it is darker than it has ever been to me, too." In the darkness the little girl asked, "Daddy, is your face turned toward me?" The dad said, "Yes, my face is turned toward you." She said, "I can go to sleep now."

After the little girl went to sleep, the father who was in such despair at the loss of his wife fell down upon his knees and asked, "God is your face turned toward me?" He heard a voice gently say, "Yes my face is turned toward you." The father said, "Okay, I going to sleep now."

You can make it through any situation you may face because the Father's face is turned toward you.

**⁸ Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness
in the morning, for in You do I trust
Cause me to know the way in which I should
walk for I lift up my soul to You.**



The Cry of David

The Nature of God

⁸ **Cause me to hear** Your lovingkindness
in the morning, **for in You do I trust**
Cause me to know the way in which I should
walk for **I lift up my soul to You.**



⁸ Cause me to hear **Your lovingkindness**
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Cause me to know **the way in which I should**
walk for I lift up my soul to You.



9 Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies;

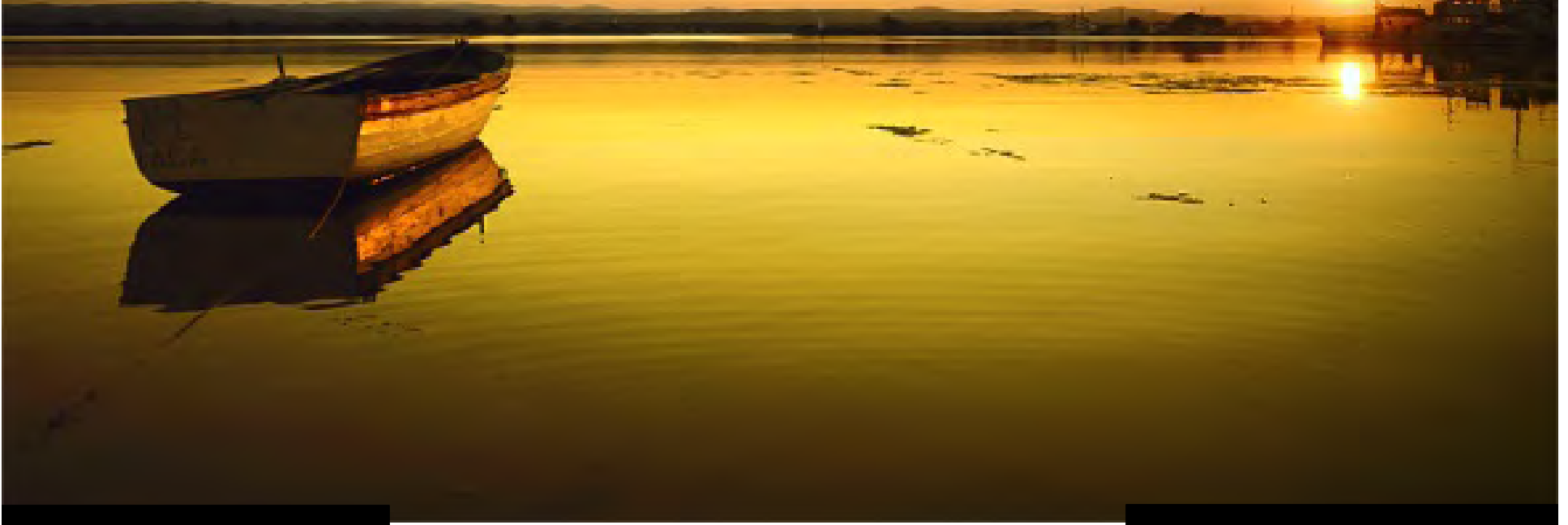
In You I take shelter.

10 Teach me to do Your will,

For You *are* my God;

Your Spirit *is* good.

Lead me in the land of uprightness.



The Cry of David

The Nature of God

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In You I take shelter.

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For You *are* my God;

Your Spirit *is* good.

Lead me in the land of uprightness.



**11 Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake!
For Your righteousness' sake
bring my soul out of trouble.**



The Cry of David

The Nature of God

**11 Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake!
For Your righteousness' sake
bring my soul out of trouble.**



**11 Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake!
For Your righteousness' sake
bring my soul out of trouble.**



**12 In Your mercy cut off my enemies,
And destroy all those who afflict my soul;
For I *am* Your servant.**



The Cry of David

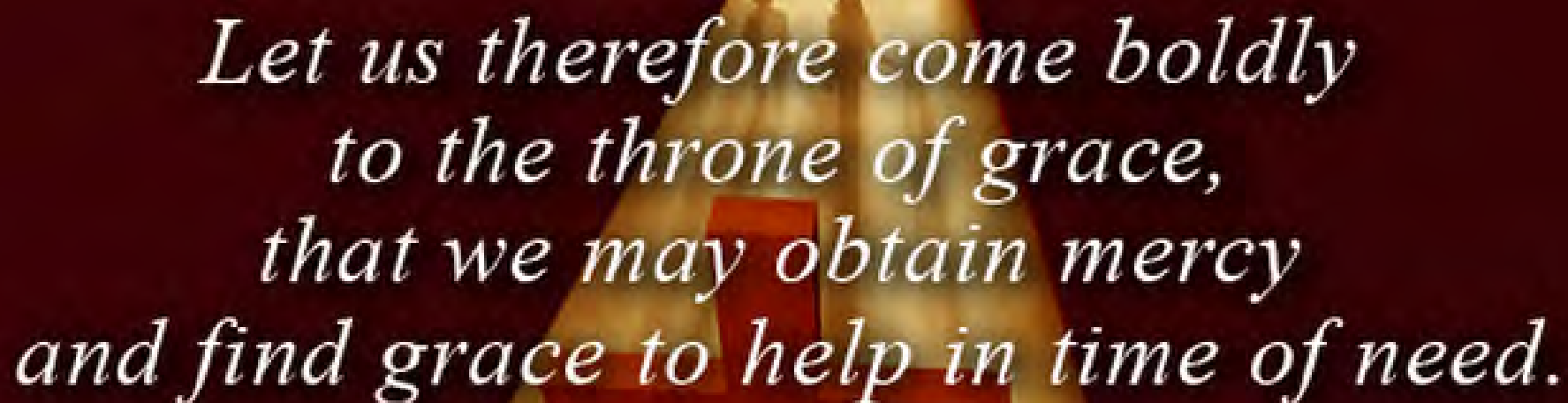
The Nature of God

¹² In Your mercy **cut off my enemies,**
And destroy all those who afflict my soul;
For I *am* Your servant.



¹² **In Your mercy** cut off my enemies,
And destroy all those who afflict my soul;
For I am Your servant.





*Let us therefore come boldly
to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy
and find grace to help in time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16 (New King James Version)

Things To Do from Psalm 143:5

Remember – days of old how He has helped
Meditate – all His works
Muse – on works of His hands
Ask – Spread out hands

A photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. A small boat is visible in the foreground on the left, and some industrial structures are visible on the right.

SURVIVING DESPERATION

Things To Pray from Psalm 143:8-12

Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness
Cause me to know which way to walk
Deliver me from my enemies
Teach me Your will
Lead me in the land of uprightness
Revive me – Get me living again
Bring my soul out of trouble
Destroy all those who afflict my soul

SURVIVING DESPERATION

Things To Proclaim from Psalm 143:8-12

In You do I trust
I lift my soul up to you
In You I take shelter
You are my God
Your Spirit is good



SURVIVING DESPERATION

Things To Remember about the Lord from Psalm 143:1-12

O LORD

Your faithfulness

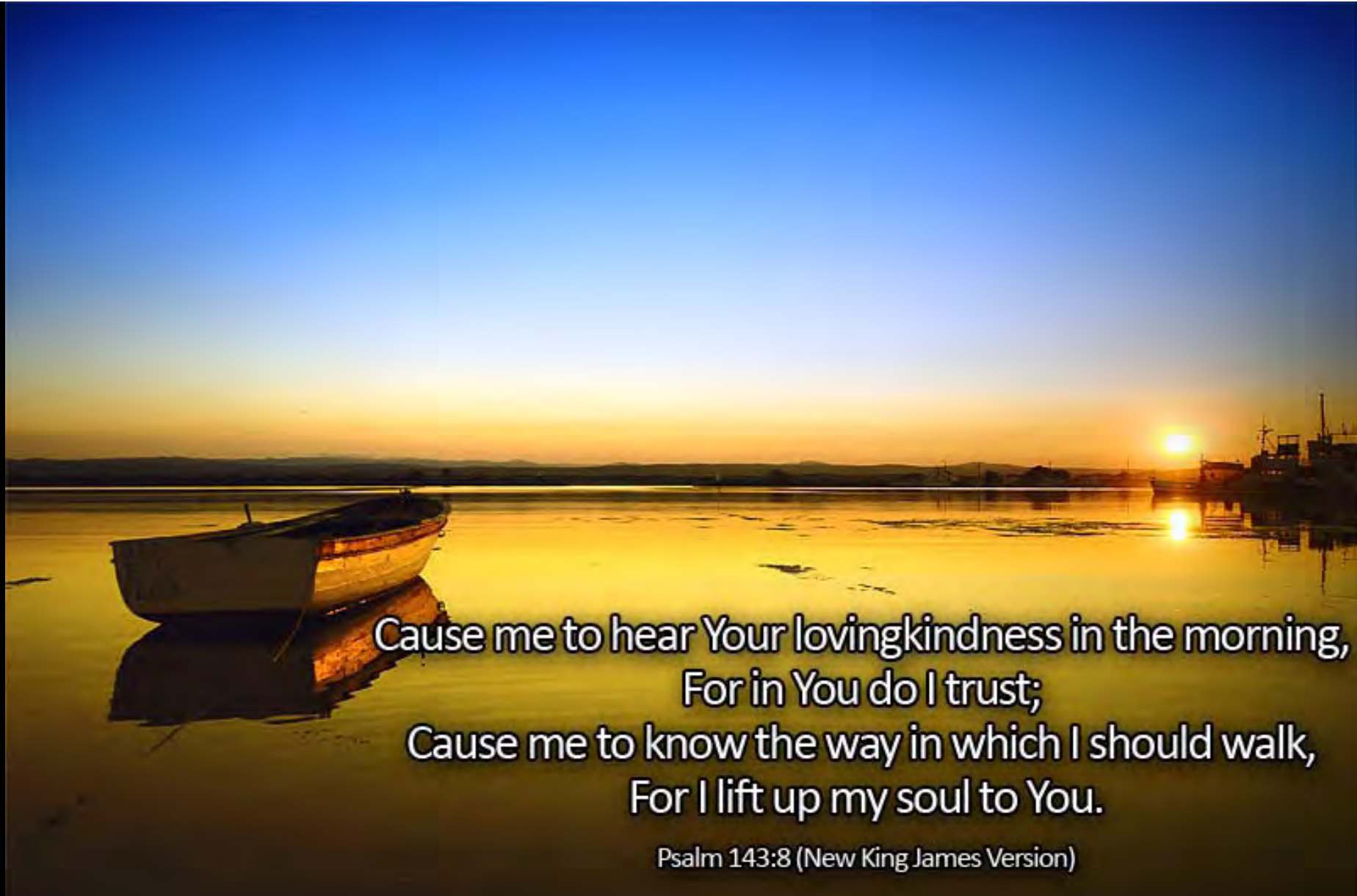
Your righteousness

Your name's sake

Your mercy

I am Your servant

SURVIVING DESPERATION



Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,
For in You do I trust;
Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,
For I lift up my soul to You.

Psalm 143:8 (New King James Version)

Surviving Desperation