

## Psalm 130

### 1. Introduction

He knew it was wrong but he just couldn't stop himself. It all began on the internet. A few images looked at, became videos watched. Occasional lapses became a habit. And now he was on his way to meet a prostitute. It was truly unbelievable. Even he could hardly believe that he was doing this – but he was. If he had seen his future would he have stopped? His wife discovering, his marriage ending, his children losing their respect for him, his life spirally down towards lonely misery. Would he have stopped?

She knew it was wrong but she just couldn't stop herself. She needed people's love. At first it had been little more than a legitimate desire for friendship. But lately she found herself reacting with fury or deep despondency at the slightest rejection, craving the attention of friends until they kept their distance, and hunting for someone who fully accepted her. She no longer gave – she just manipulated people to give to her. She comforted herself with shopping sprees and sometimes even alcohol. If she had seen where it was heading would she have stopped?

**Sad truth: a story something like that could be written for every one of us.**

#### **Songs of ascents – songs for pilgrims**

Various threats:

Psalm 121 – fear

Psalm 123 – being despised

Psalm 126 – disappointment – will we persevere?

Triplets – Psalms 129-131 a triplet about sin!

129 – the sin of others against us

130 – OUR OWN SIN

**The true threats come mainly from within.**

And sin has a disconcerting way of spiralling out of control

Slow incremental growth – distorts and mutilates our character

Sudden catastrophe – ruin

**We know this:**

All fiction in part at least exploring the ramifications of sin – “what if”

Recognise the truth of what James said

but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. (James 1:14-15)

### 2. His cry – vv1-2

#### **Out of the depths**

A region close to hell

- Witnesses
  - Oscar Wilde – De Profundis

I must say to myself that I ruined myself, and that nobody great or small can be ruined except by his own hand. ... Terrible as was what the world did to me, what I did to myself was far more terrible still.

- RR – adultery, divorce, misery for children, son drug addict, died of an overdose
- Christians – sometimes store up a calamity
- More often unaddressed sin - slow eating away at their Christian walk

### **To God**

He is not cut off from God

- There is no situation this side of eternity from which we cannot cry to God.

### 3. His hope – vv3-4

#### **The deep danger of sin before God**

“if you kept a record of sin who could stand”

- Glib “to err is human”
  - To be an erring human is to be in deep danger!

**“but with you there is forgiveness”**

**“therefore you are feared”**

God does not forgive hard hearted, “stiff necked” sinners

He does forgive humble penitent sinners

- Twin dangers:
  - The complacent sinner – no urgent pleading to God
  - The terrified sinner – feels cut off from God.
- Kaziah – when naughty
  - Gentle – keeps on doing it
  - Angry – goes into a tizzy
  - Must get it just right – this is what God is doing with you.

### 4. His patience – vv5-6

#### **His patience – “my soul waits”**

- You will never totally defeat your sin
  - We can grow and change – but not become perfect
- Like the siege of Mafeking – 217 days.

#### **His longing**

More than watchmen wait for the morning

Eager joyful longing

But also deep aching longing

- Like an engaged couple
- Like a hungry family – food set before them but must all wait
- Like children going on holiday “are we there yet?”

#### **His confidence**

“in his word I put my hope”

Promises

Forgives all our sin  
Will not let you fall  
Will complete the work he has done

5. His call to us – vv7-8

**Put your hope in God**

**Because**

Unfailing love “hesed”

Full redemption

Our resurrection hope

From God himself

Anticipation of Christ – God made man.

- This is the foundation on which sin can be tackled:
  - Full forgiveness
  - Full assurance of God’s love
  - Full certainty of final redemption
  
- A rhythm of life for the seige
  - Frequently (every day?) review the recent past
  - Seek God’s forgiveness for sins – “with you is forgiveness”
    - Remind yourself – there is no condemnation
  - Commit to dealing with those sins – “You Can change Group”
  - Pray about the next day/period
  - Go out and live for Christ