



## Looking Forward with a Past Perspective

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

November 18, 2018

## Truth for Life

For the week of November 18, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

*Because You have been my help, Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice. Psalm 63:7*

Psalm 63 is one of the most well-loved psalms. John Chrysostom (An early church father who lived 347-407AD) wrote “that it was decreed and ordained by the primitive [church] fathers, that no day should pass without the public singing of this Psalm.” He also observed that “the spirit and soul of the whole Book of Psalms is contracted into this Psalm”. In fact, the ancient church had the practice of beginning the singing of the Psalms at each Sunday service with Psalm 63. It was called “the morning hymn”.

### A Fresh Perspective – Psalm 63

- 1) Inward Focus ... Am I \_\_\_\_\_ for God? – vs. 1-2
- 2) Upward Focus ... Am I \_\_\_\_\_ for God? – vs. 3-8
- 3) Forward Focus ... Am I \_\_\_\_\_ for God? – vs. 9-11

### Transformation for the one who seeks after God

- He has inner \_\_\_\_\_ (63:5)
- He has inner \_\_\_\_\_ (63:5,7,11)
- He has Inner \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (63:7-8)
- He has Inner \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (63:9-11)

### Looking Forward

When life dumps on you ... \_\_\_\_\_ – Cp. Matt. 6:25-34

When God is \_\_\_\_\_ then He'll be \_\_\_\_\_.

Trials become the tools of \_\_\_\_\_; when character has been developed it will always result with a \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Have you ever known someone who had lost their way in life? Who had come to an impasse and did not know where to turn? What brought them to this point? Did they find their way? Figure out how to get beyond their impasse? How did they resolve this? What role, if any, did a new perspective play in providing a solution to their dilemma?
2. It is not always a bad thing to be in a tough spot in life. For the last 2 weeks, Psalm 42 and Psalm 63, David, the king, is in the role of hiding from his son Absalom. His son has usurped his father's role and taken the throne in Israel. David has been forced to flee for his life. Psalm 42 is a Cry from the Depths of Despair. Yet Psalm 63 is written from a much different perspective. David is not in depression, but hopeful. How might the following verses shed light on how we might best encounter a tough spot?
 

|                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Proverbs 14:8  | Proverbs 14:15 | Proverbs 16:9  |
| Proverbs 19:21 | Proverbs 21:5  | Proverbs 21:31 |
3. Part of The Art of “A Fresh Perspective” may also include reminding ourselves of what's most important and how God may be at work. Read Matt. 22:37-40 and 2 Cor. 4:16-18 and discuss how these verses might help in keeping a Fresh Perspective even in tough circumstances and even motivating you to continue to move forward?
4. Consider the Closing Thoughts from Sunday. Which of these catch your attention? Why? How is God desiring to use that in your life?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
  - a. How can we make time alone with God a priority and yet avoid a legalistic approach to it?
  - b. How can a Christian who has lost the passion for God regain it?
  - c. What is the difference between having God as a slice of life versus having God permeate every part of life? How does one go about making the change?



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### A Fresh Perspective – Psalm 63

- 1) Inward Focus ... Am I **Longing** for God? – vs. 1-2
- 2) Upward Focus ... Am I **Living** for God? – vs. 3-8
- 3) Forward Focus ... Am I **Looking** for God? – vs. 9-11

### Transformation for the one who seeks after God

- He has inner **Satisfaction** (63:5)
- He has inner **Joy** (63:5,7,11)
- He has Inner **Stability** and **Strength in Crisis** (63:7-8)
- He has Inner **Perspective** and **Balance** (63:9-11)

### Looking Forward

When life dumps on you ... **Seek Him First** – Cp. Matt. 6:25-34

When God is **all you've got** then He'll be **all you want**.

Trials become the tools of **Character Development**; when character has been developed it will always result with a **fresh perspective**.

1. Have you ever known someone who had lost their way in life? Who had come to an impasse and did not know where to turn? What brought them to this point? Did they find their way? Figure out how to get beyond their impasse? How did they resolve this? What role, if any, did a new perspective play in providing a solution to their dilemma?
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