

## “The Inexpressible Cry” Psalm 130

This psalm is from the psalm of ascents. We have made it to number 11 of 15.

**Treasury of David, CHS. TITLE.** *A Song of Degrees.* It would be hard to see any upward step from the preceding to the present Psalm, and therefore it is possible that the steps or ascents are in the song itself: certainly it does rise rapidly out of the depths of anguish to the heights of assurance. It follows well upon 129: when we have overcome the trials which arise from man we are the better prepared to meet those sharper sorrows which arise out of our matters towards God. He who has borne the scourges of the wicked is trained in all patience to wait the dealings of the Holy Lord. We name this the DE PROFUNDIS PSALM: "Out of the depths" is the leading word of it: out of those depths we cry, wait, watch, and hope. In this Psalm we hear of the pearl of redemption, Ps 130:7-8: perhaps the sweet singer would never have found that precious thing had he not been cast into the depths. "Pearls lie deep."

**DIVISION.** The first two verses (Ps 130:1-2) reveal an intense desire; and the next two are a humble confession of repentance and faith, Ps 130:3-4. In Ps 130:5-6 waiting watchfulness is declared and resolved upon; and in Ps 130:7-8 joyful expectation, both for himself and all Israel, finds expression.

### **Introduction: From a sermon I modified in 2001:**

Desire is a great motivator. We usually accomplish most things we attempt if we work out of our passion. I spoke with you the other day about passion. Passion is what we motivate ourselves with.

**Illustration:** My old dog, Yogi, slobbers when he wants a cookie. His desire is evident, yet there is something even greater than passion and desire! It is **need**. Passion may, and will fluctuate, but need drives us to success and accomplishment.

What have you asked God for out of need lately? Do you feel a sense of need and dependence on God? Spiritually speaking, when is the last time you cried out to God from the **“depths”**?

### **Context: (Read Passage)**

Psalm 130 is one of 7 Psalms that are called Penitential Psalms. They are Psalm 6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143. There is a confessional nature to these Psalms. Psalm 130 is a part of the Songs of Ascents. It is an “individual lament.”

- Luther called this Psalm a “Pauline Psalm.” It contains strong expressions of trust in the Lord and a weight of sin, confession, and guilt. It also expressed great confidence in God.
- The Chronicler puts v. 2, 132:8-9, 10b and 16 into the conclusion of Solomon’s prayer as he dedicated the temple (2 Chronicles 6:12-42).
- For revival to come we must understand the greatest need we have and what sin has done to us.

**Quote: Spurgeon said of sin-**

- “Sin is a disease – with his stripes we are healed.”
- “Sin is abnormal – it takes the crown from our head, the light from our minds and the joy from our hearts.”
- “Sin is a disorder – it takes the faculties of man and changes their order. We live to eat instead of eat to live.”
- “Sin undermines – it is a disease that weakens man. Moral energy is broken down. Sin is a secret bleeding that robs the vital parts of nourishment.”
- “Sin numbs the nature – The more sinful a man is the less he is conscious of sin.”
- “Sin is impure – It pollutes man. You can exist in sin but not truly live. Sin deprives us of spiritual sight, hearing, feeling and taste. It steals the joy of life.”
- “Finally, Sin is fatal – Ezekiel 18:4 ‘ The soul that sineth, it shall die.’”

Isaiah 53:5 ~ By His stripes we are healed. This is the cure for sin

**Question:** When is the last time you cried out from the depths? You needed to see God do a great work!

## **I. The Cry (1-2)**

**Verse 1:** What is the depths?

1. Out of the depths or. The could be used to picture the grave since it is the deepest valley a man can be in. The Psalmist is crying out of the grave of need. Desperation. A cry that may be inexpressible.

**Hebrew: Depths-** The root is **`amaq**, dep, depth, profound, a deep. Our word is **ma`amaqqim**. TWOT 1644e. This word can be used figuratively as in the Qal stem where it speaks of how great or how deep are God's works. One of its synonyms is translated as to sink down. The Hiphil stem **`amaq** is translated as to make deep.

It is used with the word Sheol to describe something that is deep or as high as heaven. Isa 7: 11, *"Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."* NIV

### **Jer. 49:8**

8 Turn and flee, hide in deep caves,  
you who live in Dedan,  
for I will bring disaster on Esau  
at the time I punish him.  
NIV

### **Hos 5:2**

2 The rebels are deep in slaughter.  
I will discipline all of them.  
NIV

TWOT renders Hos. 5:2 as *“the revolvers have gone deep into depravity.”*

The idea is clear that there are many who have found themselves in a deep pit or hole. The situation is bleak and may even refer to the grave. If not the grave, the sin will surely lead to it. This is the place where the prodigal finds himself when he comes to his senses.

This is also a place that may be reached without the human sins of the flesh. We have all found ourselves in a place where we had to cry out to God for help and salvation. Our word can be translated as an emblem of distress. *`emeq*, a cognate refers to a valley. *`ameq* is translated as deep or strange... unintelligible language. Not understandable.

Have you ever been in a place like this? The Jews had been there and the psalmist remembered the valley; he remembered the depths of the trouble. As they come to the temple and sing they remember where they came from and how God had delivered.

2. Sin and shame that needs cleansing.
3. Childhood accidents or tragedy.
4. Mistreatment from others.
5. Secret deeds and crimes that bring shame or embarrassment to life and family.
6. Pride – Pride keeps us from depending on God. Broken and humble people cry out to God.
7. Things unexplainable or inexpressible – things that come from desperation. The Holy Spirit may have to express it for you. It is a cry for life and health – “A Bondage Cry.” It is the realization that you are in the

grave or in the depths. “O Lord, please help me, I am in chains.”

**Illustration:** Picture someone in a grave. What is in the grave? Bones, rotting flesh, darkness, stench – when we feel that we are spiritually in this kind of condition, we will cry out from the depths – Revival happens when we see our sin like this!

**Spurgeon Illustration:** Spurgeon sees his murdered friend.

**This excerpt is from *Heroes of The Faith: Charles Spurgeon, The Great Orator, J.C. Carlile (pp. 26-28)*.**

*“There was a day, as I took my walks abroad, when I came hard by a spot for ever engrave upon my memory, for there I saw this friend, my best friend, my only friend, murdered.*

*I stooped down in sad affright, and looked at Him. I saw that His hands had been pierced with rough iron nails, and His feet had been rent in the same way. There was misery in His dead countenance so terrible that I scarcely dared to look upon it. His body was emaciated with hunger. His back was red with bloody scourges, and His brow had a circle of wounds about it: clearly one could see that these has been pierced by thorns.*

*I shuddered, for I had known this Friend full well. He never had a fault; He was the purest of the pure, the holiest of the holy.*

*Who could have injured Him? For He never injured any man: all His life long He “went about doing good.” He had*

*healed the sick, He had fed the hungry, He had raised the dead: For which of these works did they kill Him? He had never breathed out anything else but love; and as I looked into the poor sorrowful face, so full of agony, and yet so full of love, I wondered who could have been a wretch so vile as to pierce hands like His.*

*I said within myself, "where can these traitors live? Who are these who could have smitten such an One like this?" Had they murdered an oppressor, we might have forgiven them; had they slain one who had indulged in vice or villainy, it might have been his deserts; had it been a murderer and a rebel, or one who had committed sedition, we would had said, "Bury his corps: justice has at last given him his due."*

*But when Thou was slain, my best, my only-beloved, where lodged the traitors? Let me seize them, and they shall be put to death. If there be any torments that I can devise, surely they will endure them all. Oh! what jealousy, what revenge I felt. If I might but find these murders, what would I do with them!*

*And as I looked upon the corpse, I heard a footstep, and wondered where it was. I listened, and I clearly perceived that the murderer was close at hand. It was dark, and I groped about to find him. I found that somehow or the other, whenever I put out my hand, I could not meet with him, for he was nearer to me than my hand would go.*

*At last I put my hand upon my own breast. "I have thee now," said I; for lo! He was in my own heart; the murderer was hiding within my own bosom, dwelling in the recesses of my inmost soul. Ah! then I wept indeed, that I, in the very presence of my murdered Master, should be*

*harbouring the murderer; and I felt myself most guilty while I bowed over His corpse, and sang a plaintive hymn:*

*‘Twas you, my sins, my cruel sins,  
His chief tormentors were;  
Each of my crimes became a nail,  
And unbelief the spear.*

*I pierced His heart and was set free like Barabbas. My sins crucified Him and His grace set me free. I have no problem telling you that my decision is for Christ Jesus my Lord. The crucified Nazarene... The Son of God and The Son of Man.*

- When we are willing to admit our spiritual condition and cry out from the grave of sin – God will hear from heaven.

**Verse 1:** “I cry **to You**, O Lord”

- No substitutes. Cry out to “God”

**Illustration:** 48 hours – Geraldo Rivera Special ~ A man lost his son to a gang. The father was a gang member too. He also lost his 10-year-old daughter to a drive-by shooting. The man was totally broken. Yet, when he cried out, he substituted God for the bottle. He actually put beer bottles on her grave with flowers.

- Too often we take our cry everywhere but to God.
- Whatever we use as a substitute for God to get out of the grave will fail. “The power comes from God.”

### **2 Cor 4:7-12**

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay **to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.** 8

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed;

perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body. 12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

NIV

- The problem is not that we are not to die – we are supposed to die – we are just in the wrong grave!!!

### **3 kinds of walking dead men**

1. Not saved
2. Saved and not in fellowship
3. Saved and in fellowship

\*\*\* We need to be walking dead men.

With God we need no substitutes

### **Ps 20:6-9**

6 Now I know that the Lord saves his anointed;  
he answers him from his holy heaven  
with the saving power of his right hand.

7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses,  
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

8 They are brought to their knees and fall,  
but we rise up and stand firm.

9 O Lord, save the king!  
Answer us when we call!

NIV

Hebrews 7:25 – He saves completely



### Heb 7:25

25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

NIV

**My Voice Cries for Mercy: Verse 2:** When I cry, I cry for mercy.

**Illustration:** My wife used to tell me I'm bad listener. Not so, I can even hear the ball game when she talking to me. I am a great listener. Never miss a thing on the game. God is way better than I. He never misses a cry and he knows my voice.

- God hears the faintest cry. He recognizes my features and my voice.
- We also know His voice. Amazing we know His voice and have never heard it. God's favorite sound might be when He hears a cry for mercy.
- The prayer is for God to be attentive to my cry.

**Word Study: "ATTENTIVE"** (TWOT 2084)

**(qesheb)** To hear, be attentive, heed, To pay close attention. It is the same word used by the prophets when they spoke judgment on the people. A warning to give ear.

**Illustration:** The Deacons are attentive when they serve the Lord's Supper. No one wants to drop the juice or bread. How embarrassing that would be.

A mom by a sick child's bed. When he cries, she jumps up to attend. She may be asleep but will hear a slight whimper.

## II. The Confession (vv. 3-4)

### Verse 3

- Standing before God shows purity. Standing in his Presence.
- No greater moment exist than when we fall down and cry out for mercy and we are raised up by God's hand.
- The people sang this Psalm as they went to the temple. They reminded themselves why they had the opportunity to come into the temple.

**Hebrew: Record- Shamar.** To mark, be aware, regard, to hedge about, attend, to look narrowly upon, or preserve. If God keeps a record of your sins you are in trouble. You will not stand in His presence.

- Tetelestai – “It is Finished” A NT word. No Record of Sin. What was finished?
  1. Law Kept
  2. Wrath Gone
  3. Penalty of Sin paid
  4. Death, Hell, Grave defeated.
- We are clean, holy, sanctified because of Christ's death. If not, who could stand?

**Verse 4:** Forgiveness breeds fear. That seems to be quite the opposite!

- Read it this way: “Since God is in charge of forgiveness, better fear the Lord.”
- Christians know what it is to fear the Lord. We know of the power of God. We know what its like to be disciplined.

**Illustration:** The scare I had during our fast at CHBC. I lost sight in my good eye and became very afraid. This happened during 9-11. The week before I had, in my mind, been critical of someone who stopped their fast and started eating. Then I failed. That was hard to swallow.

**Recap:** Do you see the seeds of Revival in this Psalm?

- v. 1 ~ Prayer/ Need
- v. 2 ~ Cry for Mercy
- v. 3 ~ Consciousness of Sin
- v. 4 ~ Forgiveness

### III. The Consignment (vv. 5-6)

**Verse 5:** *Consignment- to hand over, commit, deliver.*  
Commit to waiting on God.

- This is endurance of the soul and hope in the Word.

#### **What do we show by waiting?**

1. Respect for God.

- 1 Samuel 13:8-15 ~ Saul did not wait, it cost him the kingdom.
- Not waiting means we will do it without God. We will do it logically. We will do it with our intelligence. We will do it the cheapest way.
- Waiting on God is one of the greatest tools God uses to grow us in the faith.
- Waiting on God protects us from iniquity.

~ **Remember His ways are not our ways.**

- Hope in the Word. The Word reveals the heart of God. The Word teaches and counsels us. It feeds our souls.
- No trust in the Word, No Revival.
- Explain “Faith comes by Hearing” – It means more than for salvation. What about after salvation?

**Illustration:** How many times have you found yourself in trouble and could not find a passage to help. We suffer the consequences of ignorance. You cannot put trust in a word you do not know.

**Ps 25:3**

3 No one whose hope is in you  
will ever be put to shame,  
NIV

**Ps 5:3**

3 In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice;  
in the morning I lay my requests before you  
and wait in expectation.  
NIV

**Ps 27:14**

14 Wait for the Lord;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the Lord.  
NIV

**Ps 37:7**

7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret when men succeed in their ways,  
when they carry out their wicked schemes.  
NIV

**Prov 20:22**

22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!"  
Wait for the Lord, and he will deliver you.  
NIV

### **Verse 6:** Why does the watchman wait for the morning?

- The morning represents salvation.
- Assurance – the morning always comes.
- The watchman protects the city. Those inside the city sleep and trust the watchman. He has a big job. He really waits for daylight. If he fails, he pays with his life. He rejoices to see the light so he is off duty and not looking for enemies.
- Expectation brings revival. We need people seeking God like the watchman waits for the morning.

### **IV. The Confidence (vv. 7-8)**

- Awareness of God’s unfailing love and redemption. We can submit to a God like that.
- Many think Israel and the church are doomed. His love never fails. Israel’s most sacred place has a Moslem mosque on it today, but one day the scriptures will be fulfilled and things will change.
- Full redemption – God has a way to finish the task. He is not through with the church. How will we fit into His plan. It is not our plan but His.
- We have been bought; we belong to Christ.
- He will personally redeem Israel. Christ is the cure for all problems. He is coming again. We may as well be in revival when He gets here.
- Verse 7 speaks of God unfailing love. This is **hesed**. This is loving kindness. The actual text reads this way; it is beautiful... *“Let Israel put her hope in the Lord, for with the Lord there is unfailing love and plenteous redemption.”* **I love that.**

**Verse 8:** I have seen the end of the story. The bible speaks of the redemption of the people of God. Their sins will be forgiven. They will be redeemed. Read Isa. 43

***Isa 43:1***

*But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.  
KJV*

**Closing:**

Recap seeds of Revival

- v. 1 Prayer/Need (No Substitutes)
- v. 2 Cry for Mercy
- v. 3 Consciousness of Sin
- v. 4 Forgiveness
- v. 5 Endurance/Waiting/Trusting the Word
- v. 6 Confidence in God/Expectation
- v. 7 Unfailing Love/Full Redemption
- v. 8 Live like He is coming soon, Israel's redemption.

**Illustration:** In 1977 a woman fell through the cracks in NY City. She was poor and needy. She was raped and became pregnant. She was tossed out of the hospital after the birth. The child became sick and she had to leave to go the welfare office to get help. While she was gone her dog ate the child. When asked, a council man said that to hear every individual cry for help in NY would be like trying to hear all the blades of grass grow and hear every bird and squirrel chirp. It would be deafening. God can hear those cries. God does care and he hears the faintest whisper for help. Those living in the depths can cry out to God and be cleansed and restored. You may have full redemption.

