

## 2020.09.20 Sunday Sermon <To Be a Panting Deer>

### **Psalm 36:7**

*How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.*

**Psalm 42:1-5** *For the director of music. A maskil of the Sons of Korah.*

<sup>1</sup>*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.*

<sup>2</sup>*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*

<sup>3</sup>*My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"*

<sup>4</sup>*These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One<sup>[a]</sup> with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.*

<sup>5</sup>*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*

In Psalms chapters 42, we read about the Sons of Korah and how the Lord provides hope for a future return to the temple in Zion.

- The Korahites in the Bible were that portion of the Kohathites that descended from the Sons of Korah. They were an important branch of the singers of the Kohathite division (2 Chronicles 20:19).
- The Sons of Korah were the sons of Moses' nephew Korah. The story of Korah is found in Numbers 16. Korah led a revolt against Moses; he died, along with all his co-conspirators, when God caused "the earth to open her mouth and swallow him and all that appertained to them" (Numbers 16:31-33).
- However, "the children of Korah died not" (Numbers 26:11). Several psalms are described in their opening verses as being by the Sons of Korah: numbers 42, 44–49, 84, 85, 87 and 88.

### **1. Sons of Korah's Situation**

They have gone through many sufferings from the land of the Jordan to Mount Mizar. Chapter 42 shows their situation and the feelings they have experienced through their trials.

- **Heaviness**

<sup>2</sup>*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?*

- **Sadness**

<sup>3</sup>*My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"*

<sup>9</sup>*I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?"*

- **Discouraged / Hearts filled with anxiety**

<sup>5</sup>*Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*

- **Fear**

<sup>7</sup>*Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.*

- **Suffering / Agony**

<sup>10</sup>*My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"*

\*There is a saying in Korean 각기삭골(刻肌削骨) - the suffering is so great that you can feel the cutting of the flesh and bone.

The reality Sons of Korah have faced may be similar to what we are going through right now during this pandemic. In today's sermon, we will look at what Sons of Korah did in their difficult situation?

### **2. Sons of Korah's Practice**

**Image #1** - Deer pants for streams of water just like the first verse of Psalm 42.

<sup>1</sup>*As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.*

The deer pants for water not only because of thirst but to live. To live in this type of situation, what must we do?

**A. As the deer pants for water, we must WORSHIP**

- **Psalm 42:6** *My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.*
- **Exodus 20:8** *Early the next morning Abimelek summoned all his officials, and when he told them all that had happened, they were very much afraid.*
- The Sons of Korah remembers their past difficulties, and each time they were afraid it was the Lord who watched over them and saved them. The same way the Lord watched over the sons of Korah, He will be with us and continue to watch over us.
- **Story of Pastor's Daughter** - The daughter of a Korean pastor was suffering from Atopic skin disease since 2nd grade. At night, her skin would be full of blood and watching her suffer brought great pain to the pastor. The pain continued for 4 years. One day, while praying, the pastor heard a voice from above telling him to bring his daughter to Wednesday Night Worship. Even though this may hinder from her school's schedule, the pastor listened and brought her to Wednesday worship. Miraculously, her skin disease healed by the Grace of the Lord.

**B. As the deer pants for water, we must PRAY**

- **Psalm 42:8** *By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life.*

Just as mothers sing the lullabies to their babies at night, the Lord sings to us and watches over us. Most importantly, He hears our prayers and our cries.

- **Psalm 62:8** *Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.*
- **Genesis 21 - Story of Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness of Beersheba**  
After Sarah gave birth to Isaac, the tension between Sarah and Hagar grew. Abraham sends Hagar and Ishmael into the wilderness of Beersheba with just bread and water. They wandered aimlessly and in a moment of despair, she burst into tears. The Lord heard her and her son crying and came to rescue them. The angel opened Hagar's eyes and she saw a well of water. The angel also told Hagar that God would "make a great nation" of Ishmael. Just as the Lord heard Hagar and Ishmael, He will hear our prayers.

**C. As the deer pants for water, we must PRAISE**

- **Psalm 42: 11** *Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.*
- **Psalm 119:164** *Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous laws.*
- **Story of James Cash Penney (1875-1971)** - He was an American businessman and entrepreneur who founded the J. C. Penney stores in 1902. After graduating from high school, he intended to attend college with the hopes of becoming a lawyer. However, his father's untimely death forced a change in plans, and Penney was forced to take a job as a store clerk to help support the family. Penney's health problems caused him to venture west to Longmont, Colorado. Later on James started his own business but most of this work was halted when the stock market crash of 1929 and the Clutch Plague left Penney in financial ruin. After the crash, Penney lost virtually all of his personal wealth and borrowed against his life insurance policies to help the company meet its payroll. The financial setbacks took a toll on his health, and he checked himself into the Battle Creek Sanitarium for treatment. After hearing the hymn "God Will Take Care of You" (written by Civilla Durfee Martin) being sung at a service in the hospital's chapel, he became a born-again Christian.

\*My brothers and sisters, we are facing a difficult reality...but this too will pass.

- Smallpox was a leading cause of death in the 18th century. it killed an estimated 400,00 Europeans each year.
- Spanish flu during 1918 killed 50,000,000 people.
- Covid-19 to this date has killed 958,000 so far.

Just as the deer pants for water and just as the Sons of Korah reached out to the Lord...let us remember to

**1. Worship**

**2. Pray**

**3. Praise**

Lord, we ask this time to heal all of us. Whatever sickness or disease we are faced with, with your Holy Spirit, heal us and be with us. Let your Spirit come down upon us and let your hand touch us and heal us.