

Psalm 61

Author: David

David is in exile and is calling to God from what feels like “ends of the earth”. Commentaries suggest David could have composed this song when he was exiled from Jerusalem during his son Absalom revolt. The result of the revolt was two-fold for King David. On one hand, his crown persevered but on the other, his son is dead.

From the Ends of the Earth-Physically

Have you ever been physically far from home for a long period of time? Maybe your situation was like David’s and your exit was a matter of survival or perhaps your exit was a personal choice. For whatever reason when we leave, a part of our heart stays behind. David is alone and his heart longs for home.

No matter where we go, or why, we are never out of the reach of our Heavenly Father. David knew God would hear “from the ends of the earth.”

Read Psalm 139:7.

What does David ask God?

Read Psalm 139:8-10.

What is God’s answer?

What a comforting thought! We can’t go anywhere without God’s knowledge.

From the Ends of the Earth-Spiritually

Spiritual exile occurs when we determine to reject God’s Spirit and Presence. With each decision we make apart from His wisdom and guidance the farther we move from Him spiritually. We eventually are unable to hear His shouts, much less His whispers. In addition, each time we sin, we separate ourselves from God. We conclude because we have moved away from God, He would not possibly want us back. Friends, God does not run out of grace.

His grace was sufficient enough for a murderer named Moses (Ex.2:12). The mighty King David, a known murderer and adulterer found God’s grace to be enough. Rahab (Josh.6:25), a prostitute did not out sin the grace of God. Paul, formally Saul and prosecutor of those who followed Yahweh God had a word or two to say about the grace he received.

Read 1 Timothy 1: 13-15. Write in the space below the saying Paul says is trustworthy.

Paul considered him the worst of all sinners. Maybe we have not said these exact words but I feel confident in saying, we all have thought them or words similar. His grace covers all our sin and restores us to abound in good work.

From the Ends of the Earth-Emotionally

Emotional exile transpires over time as a result of what we might consider bad things God has done or allowed to happen to us. Bad things like: our child not being healed from a terminal disease, the financial ruin despite the prayers, the disillusion of our marriage even after counseling or the silence of innocence through a violent crime. This list can go on.

If we are not careful, such events can send us into emotional overdraft. Like writing checks from a bank account with no money, we go through life giving and giving when our emotional bank is depleted. Our life is set on auto-pilot as we move through life disconnected with God as well as others.

David has found himself in a place of emotional exile. His heart is faint. I've been there. Have you? Perhaps you are there now. Our God, the same God to whom David cried out to centuries ago has a word for us today.

Read Matthew 11:28-20.

What does He say? What will He do?

How do we receive what He is offering?

We receive the emotional rest and recharge our soul needs by simply exchanging the yoke of our depleted emotional account with the yoke of His love, grace, and mercy. Now that sounds like a great trade!

The Return

How long does it take to return from exile? Freedom is dependent upon the level of desperation of the one in exile. Come to God. Cry out to God. He loves you too much to leave you in exile.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:8.

Write it below and circle the word *all*.

Enough said. Thanks Paul!