



Lesson 12: Hope

Psalm 130 (The Message)

- 1-2 **130** Help, GOD—the bottom has fallen out of my life!
Master, hear my cry for help!
Listen hard! Open your ears!
Listen to my cries for mercy.
- 3-4 If you, GOD, kept records on wrongdoings,
who would stand a chance?
As it turns out, forgiveness is your habit,
and that's why you're worshiped.
- 5-6 I pray to GOD—my life a prayer—
and wait for what he'll say and do.
My life's on the line before God, my Lord,
waiting and watching till morning,
waiting and watching till morning.
- 7-8 O Israel, wait and watch for GOD—
with GOD's arrival comes love,
with GOD's arrival comes generous redemption.
No doubt about it—he'll redeem Israel,
buy back Israel from captivity to sin.

I. Giving Dignity To Suffering

The Psalm begins in pain: “Help, God- the bottom has fallen out of my life! Master, hear my cry for help! Listen hard! Open your ears! Listen to my cries for mercy.” The psalm is anguished prayer. By setting the anguish out in the open in voice and as a prayer, the Psalm gives dignity to our suffering. Suffering is set passionately before God. It is acknowledged and expressed. It is described and lived.

The second important thing Psalm 130 does is to immerse the suffering in God, all the suffering is spoken in the form of a prayer, which means that God is taking us seriously and that he cares.

II. Employed To Wait

There are two great realities of Psalm 130; Suffering is real; God is real. There are two powerful words in the Psalm: wait and watch. These words are the center of the Psalm. "I pray to God- my life a prayer- and wait for what he'll say and do. My life's on the line before God, My Lord, waiting and watching till the morning, waiting and watching till the morning." Wait and watch add up to hope.

III. An Eye Specialist

When we suffer we attract all kinds of counselors. Every one of them has an idea of what we did wrong and how to get ourselves out of such trouble. What we really need is an eye specialist rather than a painter. A painter tries to convey to us with his brush the world as he sees it. An eye specialist tries to enable us to see the world as it really is. What we find is God who cares and will help us endure our sufferings with His grace. Psalm 130 is essential because it lets us know the bottom has a bottom and that God wants us to learn to wait, watch, and hope in Him!