

Sermon
“A Reorientation With God”
Psalm 62
Dallas Baptist Association
August 10, 2020

CIT: Because God was greater than any enemy, the psalmist called his audience to put their trust in God.

MOT: Consecrative

Thesis: Because God is greater than any enemy, we are called to put our trust in God

MOS: I want the audience to realize that God’s stability, power and love is greater than the world’s instability.

Introduction:

About 25 years ago, my wife and I were on a trip. As we were traveling, she turned to me and asked, “What are you thinking?” I paused, and then I said, “I’m bored.” “You’re BORED?” She couldn’t believe it.

In order to understand, let me give you a bit of context. My wife and I were on a boat, traveling through an estuary to a hotel...in the Amazon. It was the second week of a wonderful trip, and this part of the trip was in the heart of Brazil, in Manaus. We were going to be away from practically everything.

The first week had gone well. We had been in Iguazu, and in Rio, and were getting ready to enjoy this part of the trip. That afternoon, we ate at a chuhasscuria, and I tried a little of everything, and something did not agree with me. It hit me on the plane, in the airport, and was not good!

When we got off the plane in Manaus at 3 am, I had hoped it would be nice and cool. Manaus at 3 is like Manaus at noon: hot, humid, sweltering. We got to the hotel, and we were to board a steamer to the hotel. I could not get myself to do it. But, after a hot shower and a bit of food, I was ready to try. So, the small boat, the trip up the river, and the question.

Now, was I really bored? No, not at all. But, what was I feeling? I honestly did not know how to feel. It was at that time that I felt the most hopeless, and helpless. I had done rather well up to then, but it all hit at once: different country, culture, language. I was out of my comfort zone, and I was sick and tired. All I knew to do was to hold on and hang on. In short, I was disoriented.

Body:

Our text today speaks of some of the very idea of disorientation. For twelve good verses, we notice that the psalmist calls attention to how important it is to rely on God fully. Notice how the psalm sways back and forth. Verses 1 and 2 speak of God. Verses 3 and 4 speak of enemies. Verses 5-7 again speak of God. Verses 9 and 10 speak of humanity and its frailty. Verses 11

and 12 speak of God. But verse 8, the apex of sorts, calls all people to fully trust in God at all times.

The song does not end there. Notice in verses 1 and 2, and also in verses 5 and 6 the idea that the soul (nephesh, the full self) is to find rest in God. This rest is actually the idea to “wait silently” upon God; to be still. Notice also that verses 2 and 6 are exactly the same. This is like a refrain that must be sung loudly, for this God is so strong that the writer will not be moved.

Notice the various words that are used to describe this God: rock, salvation, fortress, trust, refuge, strength, then later power and love. This stares in sharp contrast to what is going on with any enemy that tries to create chaos. Though they may try to assault or topple, they are actually a “leaning wall” or a “tottering fence.” And, in verse 9, these “sons of men” (said differently) are but a “breath.” (Just like in Ecclesiastes.) Should they be weighted together, they would be nothing. All their wealth is nothing. Whereas God is mighty and worthy of trust, people are chaotic and worthy of nothing.

There is one more thing that is worthy of notice here. At the beginning of verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 9 is a particle of speech that is important. The Hebrew particle “ak” means “only,” “surely” or “indeed.” Obviously, since it’s being used 6 times, it’s not accidental! The point is to show just how important God and his attributes are (vv. 2 and 6), how important it is to be silent before him (vv. 1 and 5), and how important it is to know that any enemy is no match for God (vv. 4 and 9)!

The contrast couldn’t be bigger: any enemy that causes instability, or even disorientation, is no match for the stability that God provides. Remembering that the world and all that is in it is unreliable is important, for that should help us move closer to the reliability of God.

Conclusion:

Perhaps you have found much chaos, confusion, and disorientation in these days. Boundaries are not where they once were, whether it be because of the world we once knew, or even trying to bring our lives back to a sense or normalcy. Let me tell you, it’s not going to happen without God at the helm.

On August 4, a violent explosion hit the port of Beirut. The second explosion was felt over 100 miles away. The world that once was in Beirut is no more. More than glass was shattered that afternoon. Lives lost, an already unstable country even more so, and people homeless and totally disillusioned.

That day, in the midst of her wrecked apartment, a lady went to her piano, and began to play “Auld Lang Syne.” Her granddaughter recorded the event, saying in her Instagram, “Beauty from Ashes.” The event is telling, but the song she chose even more so. “Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot, and auld lang syne” (for old time’s sake)? No, it should not be forgotten, but it will never be the same.

Yet, may she, and others, both there, and here, realize that God is the same. He is our hope, our trust, our salvation, our refuge, our strength; it comes from only one source. He calls us to wait silently for him, to be still. We may be absolutely disoriented—perhaps to the point of boredom—with everything, but God calls us to reorient to him, and all will be well.

Amen.