

Pain, Prayer, Praise, & the Person of Jesus Christ

Sermon Series: **Singing with the Psalmist—Learning to Feel Our Faith**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would not only have *informed minds* but *enflamed hearts*!



Key Text

Psalm 13

→ “How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?” (v. 1a).



Big Idea

Struggling, doubting, fighting for faith is a normal part of the Christian life on this side of the new heavens and earth. We must learn to walk with others in this as Christ truly walks with us!

(1) Pain (vv. 1-2)

David’s pain is 3-dimensionally defined with an upper, inner, and outer dimension to it. The pain seems almost unbearable. Hence, the 4x repeated question: “How long?!”

(2) Prayer (vv. 3-4)

Where do we turn with our pain? May we be like David at this point. Though David feels abandoned and forsaken by God, he knows he has nowhere else to run. God is not merely one option among many, He is the only option! For David, “How long?!” never becomes too long.

(3) Praise (vv. 5-6)

Everything in this Psalm hinges on the “steadfast love” (*hesed*) of the Lord. This can be defined as God’s “unrelenting covenant love.” This love is the central feature of His name, His promise, and His activity. By faith in God’s covenant made with him in the *past*, David anticipates the salvation of the Lord for him in the *future*, and thus joy erupts from his heart in the *present*!

(4) The Person of Jesus Christ (Luk 1:72)

Jesus’ came into the world “...to show the mercy promised to [the] fathers and to remember his holy covenant.” He came to show, seal, and secure forever God’s steadfast love for His people.



Principled Action

Let’s sing this Psalm together as a church!

Reflection Questions

- Do you feel like you could voice Psalm 13:1-2 in our church? What kind of response would you get? How has the church helped in your pain? How has it hindered?
- When you are struggling, what does it feel like to be given Scripture like a *band-aid*? Like a *bullet*? Which do you tend to give people?
- Do you have enough faith to get to the fourth “How long?” Where are you tempted to turn when the Lord doesn’t seem to be answering? How can we help you fight?
- Read Isa 62:6-7. Are you like one of these watchmen in your prayers, giving the Lord no rest until He hears and fulfills His promises to you? Give an example of when you’ve done this and an example of when you haven’t? What’s your prayer life been like this week?!
- How does Jesus sing this Psalm for and with us? How does He secure for us the steadfast love of the Lord?
- How does knowing Jesus and the steadfast love of the Lord help us hinge from sorrow to joy?

