

CREATING SPACE TO DRAW NEAR

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Introduction

- Image
 - Sailing camp story
 - Spiritual practices are very much like raising our sail and positioning it to catch the wind
 - The most foundational practice is that of creating space for God
- Need
 - Without the practice of creating space to meet with God, it's almost impossible to become the person God wants us to be. God wants to transform us, but we have a role to play by making ourselves available to be transformed, and the first step is creating space to be with him (Henri Nouwen)
 - And yet, it's never been harder than it is today
- Subject: How do we create space for God in a chaotic world?
- Text: Psalm 62
- Preview: The Need - The Practice - The Tension

Body

- The Need to Create Space for God
 - David faces external and internal chaos
 - External: Opposition from others (slander)
 - Internal: Assault to his identity (he needs his glory to be restored from god)
 - David finds salvation in silence with God
 - David knows the thing his soul needs most is to get alone with God without distraction and be quiet (1 & 5)
 - Why? Anytime we want to encounter someone more fully for who they are, we have to protect distraction free space
 - Take it out of the spiritual realm.
 - In the silence with God he finds salvation
 - Salvation is a very broad term denoting the deliverance God brings into our lives
 - David lingered in the silence long enough to hear a word from God (11-12)
 - He encountered his power and love

- It gave him strength despite the chaos around him
 - It leads him to tell others to do the same (Creating space with God is not about retreating from real life. It's about confronting the real you that you've been ignoring with noise so that you can go back into the world to bless the world. The monastics saw creating space as the key way that the follower of Jesus confronted evil)
 - Our culture trains us to respond to chaos with activity and distraction
 - We trust in human strength (David warns against our natural tendency in verse 9)
 - We drown out the chaos with noise
 - Research: Microsoft report / Number of times we touch our phone (these little moments of encounter have been turned into moments of anxiety)
 - Andrew Sullivan
 - We live in a world of noise, but our God is a friend of silence
 - MTR: Salvation is found in silence with God, but are you creating space to receive it?
 - (What does that look like? I want to be practical)
- The Practice of Creating Space for God
 - Intentionality
 - David commands his soul to "wait in silence" (It's not natural. It requires effort)
 - Jesus modeled this intentionality throughout his ministry (Temptations in the desert, Before picking the twelve, Throughout his ministry, Gethsemane)
 - He commends us to follow his example (Matthew 6:6)
 - Intentionality: Protect a distraction free time and place to draw near to God
 - Know your season
 - Start small
 - Leverage your community
 - Vulnerability
 - David tells us to "Pour out your heart before him"
 - "Heart" was not just your emotions. It was the center of your being.
 - Bring your whole self into that quiet place of God's presence

- Jay: I can't sit still! When I pressed him, he revealed it's because he was scared of what would come out
 - Bringing all of our selves can be a terrifying thing
 - Health is a relentless commitment to reality
 - If you don't pour out your heart before God, you have two choices. You can bottle it up until it explodes. Or, you can let your heart rule your life and become a slave to the last person or circumstance that wounded you. But as we quiet ourselves long enough to be present with God, as we open up, his voice can begin to heal our hearts.
 - In this space with God, we sit silent enough to hear his voice. Be reminded of who he is. But we are then invited to hold out our deepest pain, hope, wound before him to allow him to show his power and love like he did for David
 - Vulnerability: Come with your whole self
 - Perseverance
 - The structure of the Psalm indicates this (Psalms are poetry: we learn something from the words, but also the structure of the Psalm) - Kidner
 - This has to be more than a once a year thing because God is a God who often requires us to wait (God is a slow God. He brings change into our lives organically, not mechanically)
 - Mechanically is Amazon Prime
 - Organically is like a gardener
 - Practical: Commit to a season
 - Summary Definition: The practice of regularly bringing our whole selves into a distraction free place to draw near our Savior
- The Tension of Creating Space for God
 - The Psalmist invites us to pour out our whole self before God, good and bad, and that we will receive his steadfast love. But then, he tells us that God will judge every single action. Verse 12: "For you will render to a man according to his work"
 - How do you reconcile this tension?
 - This phrase comes upon again and again throughout the scriptures, even into the ministry of Jesus
 - And yet, God's hesed, his promise-keeping love for his people runs through as well. David, one of your descendents will come and deliver Israel from her enemies.
 - The Answer: The Cup

- The last, most vivid moment we have of Jesus creating space for God is the Garden of Gethsemene
- He goes to find deliverance from the cup of God's wrath. But instead of deliverance, his enemies kill him
- The only reason we can come to God as we are and pour out our hearts without fear of being turned away is because Jesus was willing to drink the cup of God's wrath
- Jesus drank the cup so that we can step into the silence of God's presence with confidence that we will find love and power there
- The cup of God's wrath was poured into Jesus' heart so that you could pour out your heart to Jesus without fear