

## **SERMON @ St Andrews URC Church on 17/08/2025**

**Bible Text: Psalm 63**

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### **Introduction to Psalm 63**

Today, we turn to Psalm 63—a psalm that pulses with longing, intimacy, and deep spiritual hunger. It’s one of the 150 Psalms in the Bible, a collection of ancient Hebrew poems, prayers, and hymns that have comforted generations and continue to speak to the human soul. The Psalms are often called the “hymnbook of Israel,” and they reflect every shade of human emotion—joy, sorrow, anger, gratitude, and awe—while always pointing us back to a God who is both sovereign and tender, majestic and near.

Psalm 63 was written by King David, one of the 73 psalms attributed to him. David wasn’t just a warrior or a king—he was a worshiper, a poet, and a man after God’s own heart. This particular psalm is believed to have been penned during one of the most vulnerable seasons of his life—while fleeing in the wilderness, likely during the events of (1 Samuel 23–24). It’s not a psalm of complaint or lament, but of deep thirst—for God’s presence, not just His protection. This man, David understood a secret we all can learn from. How can a man who murders a man just for his wife be described as a man after God’s own heart (Acts 13:22; 1 Samuel 13:14)? More than anything else, this gives you and I hope; that God will relate with anyone who comes to Him with a deep believe in the heart and seek after Him wholeheartedly!

The Psalms are divided into five books, mirroring the fivefold division of the Torah. Psalm 63 sits in Book II, a section marked by cries for deliverance and reflections on human frailty. Yet, what makes this psalm stand out is its paradoxical joy. David is in a desert—physically and emotionally—but instead of despairing, he worships. He says, “My soul thirsts for you... in a dry and weary land where there is no water.” His words remind us that even in the wilderness, we can find a sanctuary in God – connecting and bringing Gods presence through our minds!

Why do the Psalms still matter today? Because they give us language for every season of life. They teach us emotional honesty—how to bring our raw, unfiltered feelings before God. They offer spiritual comfort in times of grief and fear. They carry prophetic depth—Jesus Himself quoted the Psalms more than any other book; even when He was on the cross. And they remain universally relevant, speaking to hearts across cultures and centuries.

Psalm 63 is a radiant gem in this collection. It invites us not just to seek God for what He can give, but to desire Him for who He is. It’s a call to pursue His wraparound presence—the kind that strengthens, shields, sustains, and satisfies; protects, preserves and provides for our every need. As we explore this psalm, may we be reminded that our deepest thirst can only be quenched by the Living God.



## **Psalm 63: A Soul's Sunrise in the Wilderness**

In the barren silence of the desert, a voice rises—not in complaint, but in craving. David, hunted and weary, doesn't beg for escape. He longs for encounter. His soul is parched—not for water, but for the Living God. "My soul thirsts for You... my flesh faints for You," he whispers into the dry wind.

This is not survival—it's surrender. He remembers the sanctuary, not for its safety, but for its glory. He lifts his hands, not in defence, but in devotional worship. His lips, cracked from heat, still sing praise.

Though his bed is rock and his pillow is fear, he finds rest in the shadow of God's wings. He clings—not to power, not to comfort—but to God's divine Presence. And in the watches of the night, he meditates recalls.

Reminisces, ponders and mutters on God's faithfulness thereby allowing memory become his melody, letting experience of past faithfulness become present fuel.

Enemies may pursue, but David is already held—upheld by the right hand of God, wrapped in a love better than life itself.

### **MESSAGE:**



### **Hook: Thirst Beyond the Physical**


Imagine hiking through a desert—your throat scorched, your body aching for water. Now shift that image inward: when we hit life situations which make a soul gasping for God.

That's where David was when he wrote Psalm 63. Fleeing for his life, surrounded by enemies, emotionally drained—yet his deepest cry wasn't for safety, but for God's presence. "My soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you" (v. 1). This wasn't poetic exaggeration—it was spiritual desperation. Have you ever felt that kind of thirst? [Testimony: only describe it felt my back was against the wall and it seemed it was over; the only thing I could do was cry out for Gods wraparound presence!]

### 1. The Cry of a Thirsty Soul (Psalm 63:1–4)


David's response in crisis wasn't panic, or call a friend, or use any human made lifeline—it was prayer (Just talking to God deep from within his heart). Not for escape or revenge, but for intimacy with God. "Your steadfast love is better than life" (v. 3). In a world chasing quick fixes—social media, success, distractions—David shows us the only true source of satisfaction.

- Worship was his lifeline, not a ritual.
- He praised God with lifted hands and joyful lips.
- He remembered God's past faithfulness, which strengthened his present trust.

 *Reflection:* What are we feeding our souls with? Are we filling ourselves with noise or nourishing ourselves with God?

### 2. The Paradox of Satisfaction (Psalm 63:5–8)

David was physically deprived yet spiritually full. “Satisfied as with feast food” (v. 5), while sleeping on rocks. How? Through deep meditation—“through the watches of the night” (v. 6), he clung to God. His joy wasn’t circumstantial; it was anchored in God’s help and hope.

 *Illustration:* Like tree roots digging deeper during drought, trials can drive us to the hidden streams of God’s presence.

### **Connection: David & Elijah in the Wilderness**

Elijah’s story in 1 Kings 19 mirrors David’s. After a spiritual high, Elijah crashes into deep despair. Threatened by Jezebel, he flees into the wilderness and prays, “I’ve had enough, Lord” (v. 4). But God meets him—by angelic visitation, not with rebuke, but with bread, water, and a whisper (v. 12). Like David, Elijah’s desert became a place of divine encounter. We see that when we seek for God’s presence in our everyday situations, He comes and meets every other need!

### **Shared Themes:**

- **Longing for God:** Both men thirsted—not just physically, but spiritually.
- **Divine Provision:** David was satisfied with God’s presence; Elijah was sustained by angelic care.
- **Worship in Despair:** Both turned to God in their lowest moments.

- **Solitude & Renewal:** Their wilderness seasons led to clarity and renewed purpose.

James reminds us: “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”

That’s the heartbeat of both stories.

### **Take-Home Lessons**

- **Prioritize God’s Presence:** Begin your day with worship, not reaching for the news update on your phone. Let His Word be your feast.
- **Praise God in the Wilderness:** Don’t wait for perfect conditions to worship. When we cultivate to delight ourselves in Him, seeking Him becomes a moment-by-moment thing. Therein lies the secret of standing firm even amidst desert experiences (Remember Paul and Silas bound and restricted in prison. Praise and worship to God in the midnight watch brought down His presence-in an earthquake, freeing all who were in the prison too!(Acts 16:25)
- **Feed on God’s Faithfulness:** When fear creeps in, remember: “God’s right hand upholds us” (v. 8).
- **Lean on Community:** God often sends people—like Elijah’s angel—to support us. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reminds us we’re stronger together. Let love and care for one another characterise all we do. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. (John 13:35)

### **Closing: Come Thirsty**

A dehydrated soul doesn't need advice—it needs Living Water. Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37). David created a sanctuary in the desert because he connected deeply with God. Whatever your wilderness—loneliness, anxiety, failure, shame or desolation—God isn't hiding. He's waiting. Come thirsty, and always leave full.

### **Prayer**

*Father, we thank You for the entrance of Your Word brings light. Illuminate our hearts to see our need for You. We confess our soul-thirst. Forgive us for chasing broken cisterns. Teach us to habitually seek You first, to cling to You in the dark, lonely spots of life and to find our satisfaction in Your unfailing love and ever abiding wraparound presence. In Jesus' name, Amen.*