

3rd Sunday after Pentecost, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2023

Saturday, 6/8 at 4:00 | Sunday, 6/9 at 9:00

# Desperate Situation?



Pray > Thank > Wait > Trust

Text: Psalm 130 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: If you ever get into a **desperate situation**, *I have some important advice for you from **Psalm 130**.*

This sermon includes:

- Some basic psalm information.
- An actual desperate situation.
- Four action-steps from **Psalm 130**.
- The end of the story.

## 1. **Some Basic Psalm Information:**

- a. **Psalms 120-134**: They are called **Songs of Ascent**, *since they were sung by Jews as they traveled up (in elevation) to Jerusalem for the great festivals.*
- b. **Psalm 130**: It is **one** of **seven** penitential psalms (**6; 32; 38; 51; 102; 130; 143**). It's critical for all of us to be penitent: **▶ sorry for our sins** and **▶ trusting in Jesus for forgiveness**.

- c. Martin Luther: He identified **Psalm 130** as **one** of the **top four Psalms**, along with **32**, **51**, and **143**.

## 2. **An Actual Desperate Situation**:<sup>1</sup>

- a. In January of 2023 a young couple was dropped off on North West Island, *about 35 miles off the Australian mainland*, for a camping trip.
- b. Then, *going for a simple paddleboard trip*, they were swept away from the island by the tide.
- c. They eventually lost their paddleboards and were ♦treading water, ♦becoming dehydrated, ♦at risk of hypothermia, and ♦in a brutal storm.

## 3. **Four Action-Steps from Psalm 130**:

- a. **Pray** – **Earnestly**: <sup>1</sup> **Out of the depths** [*from below the water*] **I have cried to You, O LORD.** <sup>2</sup> **Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications.** // What does that mean? ♦Trusting in the LORD and ♦confident that He will hear us, *let us earnestly ask Him to help us according to our needs!*
- b. **Thank** – **For Forgiveness**: <sup>3</sup> **If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?** <sup>4</sup> **But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.**
- i. Mark Iniquities: That means to *write down the things we do wrong*. Imagine sinning ONLY 3 times each day, *which is VERY LITTLE*. Nevertheless, that would add up to

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/couple-rescued-lost-sea-treading-water-1773014>

over **1,000 sins per year!** *Now, multiply your age by 1,000. THEN THINK: We all have a multitude of sins!*

- ii. Forgiveness: The LORD is **NOT** looking to destroy us, **BUT** to save us: **“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...”** (John 3:16). Therefore, let us **fear Him!** In other words: ♦**love Him,** ♦**respect Him,** ♦**honor Him!**
  
- c. **Wait** – With Hope: **<sup>5</sup> I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope. <sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; *Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.***
  - i. Hope: In the Bible, ***to hope is to be certain*** because ♦the LORD is almighty in power, and ♦His promises will all come true!
  - ii. Wait: Waiting is **not easy**, *but waiting is easier when we know* ♦the situation is in the LORD’s hands and ♦the fulfillment of His promises are according to His timing.
  - iii. More Than Night Watchmen: Imagine being a night watchman on the wall of your city: ♦**forcing** yourself to stay awake, ♦**watching** for any sign of an enemy, and ♦**longing** for the new day to dawn. *Let us long **MUCH MORE** for the fulfillment of **all of God’s promises!***
  
- d. **Trust** – In the LORD: **<sup>7</sup> O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is lovingkindness, And with Him is abundant**

redemption. <sup>8</sup> And He will redeem Israel From all his iniquities. // [Psalm 130](#) called the OT people to **keep trusting in the LORD**, *certain that the Lamb of God would* ✦ finally come and ✦ take away the sin of the world!

#### 4. **The end of the true story:**

- a. The couple went into the water on **Saturday, 1/7**. By **Tuesday, 1/10**, they were ✦ still in the water, ✦ treading water, ✦ becoming dehydrated, ✦ at risk of hypothermia, and ✦ in a brutal storm. *We can imagine their earnest cries to the LORD!*
- b. **But then**, *by the grace of God*, a fisherman ✦ heard their shouts for help, ✦ pulled them into his boat, and ✦ got them to a hospital!

**Conclusion:** Whenever our situation is desperate, *let us remember to **pray, thank, wait, and trust!***

- **OT:** They prayed, thanked, waited, and trusted for the Messiah to come and redeem all people!
- **NT:** Let us pray, thank, wait, and trust for the Christ to ✦ return, ✦ bring this world to an end, and ✦ give us the **FULNESS** of eternal life!

**Let Us Pray:** Dear LORD, our most desperate situation was sin; *TYSM for Your awesome rescue through Jesus!*

**Website:** [www.BLC7500.com](http://www.BLC7500.com); **YouTube and Podcast:** "Benefit from the Bible"  
**Facebook:** "Bethlehem Parma" / **Pastor:** [RevRLGreen@aol.com](mailto:RevRLGreen@aol.com); 440-292-5915  
7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134 / 440-845-2230