March 19, 2022

Scripture

Psalm 143

1 Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.
2 Do not enter into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

3 For the enemy has pursued me, crushing my life to the ground, making me sit in darkness like those long dead.
4 Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

5 I remember the days of old, I think about all your deeds, meditate on the works of your hands.
6 I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

7 Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails. o not hide your face from me, or I shall be like those who go down to the Pit.
8 Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.

9 Save me, O LORD, from my enemies; I have fled to you for refuge.
10 Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Let your good spirit lead me on a level path.

11 For your name’s sake, O LORD, preserve my life. In your righteousness bring me out of trouble.
12 In your steadfast love cut off my enemies, and destroy all my adversaries, for I am your servant.
I have a recurring dream that stems from my unfortunate habit of sleeping with my mouth open, especially when I’m sick and can’t breathe through my nose. In this dream, I am consumed by thirst. No matter how much water I drink, nothing quenches it. I start with a glass of water, and I drink the whole thing. But nothing changes. I inevitably dream that I am drinking straight from a faucet, and can feel the cold water all around my face. But my thirst is not slaked.

Finally, I become so frantic that I wake up and realize I’m still thirsty because I only dreamed of drinking something. As soon as I am able to actually take a drink, there is immediate relief. Even one sip of water makes a tremendous difference, and there is no substitute for the real thing. Psalm 143:6 says, “My soul thirsts for you like a parched land.” I think this is such a helpful image of how we long for God. How we need a reminder of God’s presence, God’s provision, and God’s goodness. Just a taste helps us feel connected again. One sip gives us hope again, no matter what we are going through.

This Lenten season, may we all thirst for God as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

**Prayer**

Holy God, make me thirsty for you—for your word, for your presence, for your grace. Remind me that all of life flows from you. I pray this in the name of Jesus, who gives living water. Amen.