

Sermon Title: **God's *HESED* to Those in Despair**

Sermon Text: Psalm 107:4-9

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: **Psalm 56**

Title:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

The *Bible Knowledge Commentary* explains that “Apparently Psalms 42 and 43 belonged together at one time, many Hebrew manuscripts having them as one psalm. This is evident from the fact that the refrain is repeated twice in Psalm 42 (vv. 5,11) and at the end of Psalm 43 (v. 5).”

Read **Psalm 42:1—43:5**. These psalms are divided into three stanzas with a refrain after each. How would you describe each of the stanzas? What is the emotion of the psalmist in each stanza?

42:1-4

42:6-10

43:1-4

What does the psalmist say in the recurring chorus (**42:5, 11** and **43:5**) as a way to reassure and encourage the reader to not be overwhelmed by his/her circumstances?

In what ways do you identify with some of the things written in these psalms? How do these words speak to you personally?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

In the message this week, Pastor Wade spoke of God's *HESED* to those who are facing desperate situations in their lives. The psalms we looked at in the previous lesson express an intense desire to be in the presence of God. **Psalm 84** is a companion to those psalms because it expresses a yearning for worship. Read **Psalm 84**.

The concept of God's *HESED* is difficult to translate because it has so many layers of meanings depending on the situation. Pastor Wade has described it as being similar to what neuroscientists call "attachment."

"Attachment is the strongest force in the human brain. It is not an emotion, although we feel it strongly... Attachment is the best word scientists could find for what glues people together and little creatures to their parents..."

Attachment is a life-giving forever bond with no mechanism in the brain to unglue us. (Jim Wilder, PhD) (emphasis mine)

Read **Psalm 84** again, but this time read it aloud. How does the psalmist describe his desire for being in the presence of the Lord?

Verses 1-2

Verses 3-4

Verses 5-7

Verses 8-9

Verse 10

Verses 11-12

On a scale of 1 to 10, what is your level of "attachment" with God? What will you do to increase this desire in your heart?