

SERIES: *Psalms*
TITLE: *Sad Song*
SPEAKER: *Pastor Bob Marvel*
PASSAGE: *Psalm 88*
DATES: *June 4-5, 2022*

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY

- Jesus identifies with us in the darkness.
-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Pastor Bob shared a picture of his siblings and himself when he was a year and a half old. How would you describe your own disposition or personality for the majority of your life? Is that how people who know you well would describe you?
 - Music is a powerful medium that can invoke our emotions. What kind of music do you gravitate towards when you are feeling down for any reason?
 - Read Psalm 88 together.
 - The man who wrote Psalm 88 had some impressive credentials (see 1 Chronicles 6:33 for his heritage, 1 Chronicles 15:16-17 for his appointment by King David, and 1 Kings 4:29-31 for his high status in comparison to King Solomon). Why do you think none of that seemed to matter to him when he wrote this Psalm?
 - When you have encountered difficult experiences, how open and honest have you been with God about what you're feeling and going through? Have you, like Heman, blamed God for your circumstances?
 - Pastor Bob said that maybe God had included Psalm 88 in His Bible to give us permission, an example, and even the words to express our unfiltered prayers. Have you ever, instead, tried to spiritualize your prayers, or hide your emotions from Him?
 - How did the Prophet Isaiah describe the coming Messiah in Isaiah 53:3?
 - Compare these Gospel accounts of the hours just before Jesus' death on the cross in Matthew 27:45, Mark 15:33 and Luke 23:44-46.
 - How does Isaiah's description and the Gospel accounts you just read relate to the description of Jesus in Hebrews 12:2?
 - What does Jesus' suffering and experience of total darkness have to do with our own suffering and emotional and spiritual darkness?
-

NEXT STEPS

- Read Hebrews 4: 15-16. Consider: if you tell God everything you are feeling and going through, even in its raw form, what can you expect to receive as His response? How does that affect your willingness to be transparent and vulnerable in His presence?