

A Song of Perseverance

Songs For The Road - 4

Christian discipleship is not a sprint. It's a marathon. And like children on a long trip, we must learn that our faith journey demands a great deal of patience, a good sense of direction, and a realization that the ultimate destination is well worth whatever hassles we might encounter along the way (2 Cor. 4:16-18; Hebrews 11:32-40). Throughout history, God's people have encouraged one another to keep going by singing songs--especially songs of perseverance.

LOOKING BACK:

Are you good at finishing what you start? What helps or hinders you from completing certain tasks?

LOOKING DEEP:

Read Psalm 129

- 1. Some people seem to suffer more than others, would you agree? Looking back, what would you consider the toughest period of your life?*
- 2. Despite all of the pain and suffering in his life, the psalmist has persevered. His endurance, however, was not the result of his own determination; it was the result of God's "righteousness" or faithfulness (vs 4, also notice passages like Neh. 9:8; Daniel 9:17-19). *Does an incident come to mind in which the Lord cut you free from "the cords of the wicked?"**
- 3. In calling for God's vindication on the wicked, the psalmist is affirming his confidence that God is not going to be mocked. Those who oppose God are going to be as short lived as grass growing on a flat roof that is exposed to the blazing heat of the sun. *Why is this long-term perspective such an important factor in keeping faith?* You might want to notice the way in which another psalmist was delivered from self-pity in Psalm 73.*
- 4. What things do people of faith--those with "the power to see it through" keep in mind as they face the reality of suffering?*
- 5. How could the message of this psalm encourage you in your faith journey--right here-and-now, as well as in the future?*

*PRAYER REQUESTS
AND REFLECTIONS*