

Psalm 44 "Awake Lord! Why do you sleep?"

Read Psalm 44

In vs. 1-8 The Psalmist reflects from the nation's history on what they know about the character and activity of God. In vs. 9-22 the psalmist speaks of the agony of their current circumstances. There is a profound disconnect between what they know of God and their circumstances.

1. Has there been a time in your life where you have experienced a disconnect between what you know of God and your circumstances? Describe it.
2. What deep movements or currents flowed through your heart at that time? Did you pray them through, pray them out? If not – what kept you from doing so? If you did what was the result?

In vs. 23 the psalmist turns from processing the deep currents of the heart to petition. Awake Lord... redeem us the for the sake of your steadfast love. We might desire that the psalmist would have lingered on this note of hope for longer but it does point us to a place we can linger – another time where the people of God cried out for God to wake up when there was a disconnect between their vision of God and their circumstances.

Read Mark 4:35-41; Jonah 1

3. What are the similarities and differences between the story in Mark and the story of Jonah?

Read Matthew 12:38-41

4. Reflecting on your comparison of the story of Jonah and the story of Jesus from Mark 4, where is Jesus desiring us to turn our attention?

Read Romans 8:31-39

5. Paul quotes from psalm 44. How can reflecting upon the death and resurrection of Jesus in the midst of the disconnect (between what we know of God and our circumstances) enable us to weather those circumstances without sinking or crumbling?