Our Harps in the Trees

PSALMS 13, 19, 22, 30, 40, 88, 104, 136–137

Imagine.

You watch the sunrise from your front porch. Cup of fresh brewed coffee in hand, and you sit in the coolness of the morning. Your partner and children still sleep inside the quiet house. Healthy and happy they are. Soon you'll be able to look out the window that looks into the backyard and watch them run barefoot in the green grass, laughing and yelling each other's names.

Everything feels right. Everything seems as it should be. You did the right things, made the right decisions, and this is what God has helped you create. You close your eyes, inhale deeply, and your whispered words join the breeze as it passes by: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever."

This may be a bit too much like the idealized "American Dream." But you get the picture. This is a Song of Orientation. All is well and good, and you praise God for His many blessings and goodness. Trusting you've done it all right, put in the hard work, and it will last forever.

Imagine.

You watch the sunrise through the storm clouds. The sun is the only familiar thing about this moment. Everything had come crashing down. The storm left the house in shambles (metaphorically or literally, you imagine it). The cries of your children haunt your ears, and the hollowed eyes of your partner leave you numb—the pain is no longer even felt. Just, nothingness. The divorce will be final soon. The wreckage of the affair still lingers.
Or was it the diagnosis?
The loss?
The failed round of IVF?
The accident?
The career tanking?

Everything is upside down. Out of sorts. Nothing like you had planned and nothing like it should be. This new reality was not in the five-year plan. You put your head in your hands and cry, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Each of us has a long walk home as well…

The Song of Disorientation. You've always been told, and trusted, that God is there, and you still believe it. Or you want to. But how do you continue to trust the Story and hope in that goodness, when everything—for no particular reason—has gone wrong?

Imagine.

You watch the sunset from the apartment balcony. The pots of flowers at your feet are in bloom, and the chirping of crickets sounds from below. You hear your children's laughter through screen door, and sigh, grounding yourself in the ever-changing world around you. It feels so good, so right, and you take a deep breath again. Nothing is exactly as it was or exactly as you thought or hoped it would be. But, it is good. Your life has been reoriented, but this new path feels right, again.

"Cast your cares on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken… But as for me, I trust in you."

PSALM 55

PRAYER

I bless You, God,
for bringing voice to my humanity.
Looking through the kaleidoscope of experience,
You do not hide from me.
You embrace the dance of colors and design of my soul,
and You welcome me. You hear me.
As I bring my honest joys and pain, cries and laughter, rage and peace,
may You hear my words as praise.
In Your power, Your might, Your passion, and Your light,
I hallow Your beautiful name.

Amen

EPISODE 44 (SESSION 2)

THE FOUR PILLARS



BEMA Discipleship is built on four pillars; a **Four-Pillared Perspective** to help us remember **to elevate the words of God** (not ours) and help us identify the principles that we see recurring in the story of God's people.

Here are some applications for this episode echoing the ideas of the four pillars:

I

TEXT

What else stands out to you about the Psalms? What do you still wish you knew more about? Which Psalms remind you of stories in the Text? What could you meditate over or memorize?

II

COMMUNITY

How is your community walking with one another through seasons of life—orientation, disorientation, and reorientation? How can you remember the Psalms in these times?

III

DISCIPLESHIP

Who are you modeling this kind relationship with God for? Who sees or walks with you through this season of life? Who are you close enough to to walk with them through such seasons?

IV

WRESTLING

What are you wrestling with about this categorization of the Psalms? Which Psalms seem to not fit into these categories? What might be missing in this framework?

Spotify

Are you a music listener?

Listen along to our BEMA Music Playlists on Spotify.

Song suggestions? Send them to bemabesorah@gmail.com.

BEMA SESSION 2

MEDITATION & PRAYER

REFLECTION, APPLICATION & IMPACT

There are three emphases that we are always thinking about in terms of application at BEMA. These may be stated explicitly at times, but often we will want you to do the work of finding ways to connect the dots to the things we are learning. Much of this is what makes the work of BEMA distinct as a ministry of Impact Campus Ministries.

CREATING A SPACE
SPIRITUAL FORMATION

True success is developing intimacy with God. In Session 1, we encountered the idea of "Creating Space for God" in our lives. We believe that ***if we do our part of creating that space, God will fill it*** *as He desires. You're already doing this as you dive into the Text and jump into a place to discuss. God will meet you in these places! Look for places the Holy Spirit can do work in and through you as you go about your everyday life.*

CONSIDERING CAMPUS
YOUNG PEOPLE FOCUS

We believe that young adults are shaping the future of this world. *Jesus modeled a ministry of discipling young adults, and that approach has and will work. If you are a college student who is listening, we want this material to be directly helpful to your pursuits. If you are not a college student, we want to challenge you to come alongside one and work together.*

SACRED STATION
THEOLOGY OF WORK

This isn't only for church or Bible study; this is about what we do every day. How we do our job and how it may take advantage of or bring life to others is something God says is central to our presence in the world. Justice is very much something God cares about. Does our physical work (our 9–5 job) bring shalom or chaos? Does it exploit creation? The way we manage our employees, interact with customers or coworkers, care for our children, or create products can provide relief to others. ***The work we do every day is sacred and matters!***

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