

INTRODUCTION:

Rescue workers have been picking through the debris of a collapsed apartment block in Adana, Türkiye, for days on end, when they suddenly call out for silence on the site. They've just received a text message from a man trapped underneath the rubble. His name is Şenel. In the text, he tells rescuers he's still alive, in apartment nine, and he pleads for help. The heavy machinery that had been working overtime to clear the rubble is shut down. Search and rescue dogs are silenced, and men put down their shovels, crouching closer to the ground. They desperately try to listen for his cries so that they can help.¹

Can you imagine being buried alive? Desperately trying to cry out for help? None of us are buried under buildings. But you might feel buried by other things. You might feel like you are being suffocated by the pressure at work. The pressure of your responsibilities with your family. Maybe you feel buried under the weight of grief. Maybe your health is deteriorated and you can't get answers. Or maybe you just feel crushed with the weight of being alive.

But all of us at one time or another are going to come to a place where we feel completely alone, lost, in despair, and desperate for help. What I want you to know for when you get there, is that you can cry out to God for help.

This entire psalm is about someone stuck in that place. They are alone and desperate and they are crying and screaming out to God for help. Psalm 130 gives us three reasons that we can cry out to the LORD.

Point number 1 is the first reason we can cry to the Lord.

I. Cry to the Lord because He will listen to you (v. 1-2).

Verse 1, ***"Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!"***

The Psalmist cries out to God.

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-09/turkiye-earthquake-rescue-effort-trapped-people-text-workers/101944738> I wasn't able to find out if Senel survived or not.

And he cries to God out of what he calls, **"the depths."**
The Hebrew word here for depths often refers to the sea.
The ocean was a symbol in the ancient world of chaos.
The chaotic nature of the waves mirrors the chaos of our world.
And we cannot control our lives anymore then we can control the tide.

Crying out of the depths is a cry from the chaos of the world.
It is a cry from someone who is not in control.
The cry out of the depths is a cry that says I feel like I am drowning.
I am sinking further and further down and I'm not sure I have the strength
to swim back to the surface.
It is a cry like Jonah who cried from the deep waters in the belly of the fish.

When he says that he cries out of the depths, it his lowest point.
It the most desperate and sad he has ever been.
It is the end of the rope

When have you been at your lowest?
When have you had no where else to go?
Maybe it was after the death of someone you loved.
Maybe it was after you lost your job or retired.
Maybe it was when you were sick, at the hospital, and they can't find out
what is wrong.
And like the psalmist, we cry out for God's help.

Verse 2, **"O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice
of my pleas for mercy!"**

At his lowest point, the psalmist cries that God would hear him.
He cries that God would hear his voice.
That God would be listening.

Do you think God hears us?
Do you think God can listen when you talk?
Do you think that if you whisper, He couldn't hear?

Our God does hear.
He hears everything.
And He can definitely hear your voice.
He hears you when you cry.
God is like a mother with a newborn.
Who shoots up out of bed the moment her baby cries.

He repeats it poetically with more details.

"Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!"

To be attentive means to be truly listening.

It is a prayer that God does not just hear the words, but does something.
It is asking that your words not just go in one ear and out the other.

The prayer is that God will hear.

That God will listen to the cry for mercy and act as He has in the past.

Because our God is attentive.

Our God will listen.

But God doesn't have His headphones in.

He is listening and will be attentive.

And our God will act.

He listens like in Exodus 2.

The people of Israel, who were slaves in Egypt, **"groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. And God heard their growing and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob."**

And God sent Moses and the 10 plagues to set His people free.

The slaves cried, and God listened.

Samson cried out to the Lord out of the depths.

He cried when he had sinned over and over again.

He cried because he had violated all of his nazarite vows.

He cried with chains on his wrists, and no eyes in his head.

He cried, and God listened.

God gave Samson back his strength.

Jonah cried out of the depths of the ocean.
Stuck in the belly of a fish because of his disobedience and sin.
But God heard his cry.
And God put him back on dry land, restored to his mission.

Hagar cried out to the Lord out of the depths of starvation.
When Abraham and Sarah cast her and Ishmael away.
They went out into the desert, ran out of food and thought they would die.
They laid down and cried.
God heard their cry.
God sent an angel.
God saved them and made them their own nation.

And the blind man cried out of the depths.
He heard Jesus was near.
And he cried out screaming, **"Son of David, do not pass me by."**
And Jesus heard.
Jesus came to see him.
Jesus healed his eyes, and let him see.

You can cry out to God and He will hear you.
He will listen to you.

Sometimes we don't cry out to God because we don't believe He listens.
But He does.

Sometimes we don't cry out to God because we are ashamed.
We feel the weight of our sins.
And we're afraid to cry out for God because we fear his judgment.
We're not sure we want to have to confront them.
We feel it's like a teenager who's going to have to confess to their parents
that they've spent the night out drinking.
Especially when we have to confess our sins we are very afraid of the
conversation that's going to come.

We fear God's anger.

We fear that God may pour out His wrath on us.

But there is another reason that we should cry out to the Lord.

II. Cry to the Lord because He will forgive you (v. 3-4).

We can and should cry out to the Lord because he will forgive your sins.

We've all had times where we've had to confess to someone else what we've done wrong.

Maybe we've had to tell a boss a significant mistake that we made at work.

Maybe you've had to confess to a spouse something that you've done that you know they're not going to like and you're not sure how they will respond.

Maybe you have to confess something to a friend and you're not sure how your friendship is going to endure this.

Here's what you need to know about God.

You do not have to wonder how He will respond.

You do not have to wring your hands and wonder what He will say.

You do not need to go to a priest or a pastor to get advice on how to best cry out to God.

If you cry out to God and ask for forgiveness He will forgive your sins.

Look and see.

Verse 3, **"If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?"**

He says that if God kept track of all of our iniquities then we would be in trouble.

And iniquities is another word to describe our sins.

And sin is a missing of the mark.

It is any time we fall short of the Perfection and Glory of God's perfect holiness.

It is anytime that we say anything wrong or sinful.

It is any time that we do something that is immoral or wicked.

It is any time that we begin to desire something that we should not and we feed and nurse that desire in our hearts.

If all of those were written down.

If there was a record of all of our sins that could be looked at or recorded all of us would be in grave danger.

Now I don't think we would have to go that far.

I don't think that we would need a record of every single sin that you have ever committed in order for you to be unable to stand before God's presence.

I think for most of us we would only take a week's records.

And unfortunately for all of us there are some very detailed records of our behavior.

There's a very detailed record of your internet history.

Whether it's on your phone, tablet, computer, or any other means that you have to connect to the internet.

There is a record of everything you've looked at, everything you have searched, and everything you've done.

The judging solely based on the statistics on pornography use I would guess that most people on Earth would not on a pastor to look at their internet use.

Because if people were able to see what we have seen then we might be in trouble.

I read a story of a woman whose internet history got her in trouble.²

Her husband died unexpectedly from a lethal dose of fentanyl.

One of the many pieces of evidence that led to them realize she poisoned her husband was her internet history.

Here are some of the things she searched.

² Her name is Kouri Richins and I found the story here <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/utah-woman-accused-killing-husband-writing-grief-book-searched-lethal-rcna88821>

"if someone is poisoned what does it go down on the death certificate as"
"what is a lethal dose of fentanyl"
"can cops force you to do a lie detector test."
"death certificate says pending, will life insurance still pay?"
"how to permanently delete information from an iPhone remotely"
"FBI analysis of electronics in an investigation"

And my personal favorite, "luxury prisons for the rich in America"
Does she sound guilty to you?

Now you may have not searched things like that on the internet.
But there is a record of everything that you have ever done online.
And a bunch of different companies own it and sell it to each other in
order to make money.
And if those companies know that much about you.
If they have that kind of record,
What kind of records do you think God has?
God doesn't just know the things that have left your fingers as you type
God knows the thoughts that have been in your head.
God knows every desire of your heart.
God knows and has seen every secret thing.

The end of the book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that **"God will bring every deed into judgement, with every secret thing, whether good or evil."**

All of our secrets will be laid bare.
All the scrolls will be opened.
If God keeps better records than tech companies we are in trouble.

You ever been so embarrassed that you just wanted to melt into a puddle?
Maybe somebody pointed out something that you did wrong and you just
want to sink you feel like you can't stand.
That is part of what the psalmist is saying.
Says that if God has that kind of record we will not be able to stand up.

There is a reason that every time someone comes in the presence of God in the scriptures or see His angels they fall on their faces. Because of their sin they are unable to stand.

We also would not be able to stand up not just because of embarrassment but because of the very real weight of our sins.

The reality of our sins.

The repulsive nature of our sins.

Because our God is a holy and perfect God.

No sin can be in his presence.

The only ones who can ascend up onto His mountain are those with clean hands and pure hearts without sin.

If you saw God, if you stood before Him in His presence and you had any trace of sin in your life or in your heart you would not stand because you would die.

If you saw God in the fullness of His glory you would fall on your face and then disintegrate back into the dust for once we were all formed.

Because of our sins, we are all in incredible trouble

BUT.

Verse 4 gives us the good new

Verse 4, **"But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared."**

With God there is forgiveness for our sins.

And God's forgiveness is deep and true.

There are people who tell you that they forgive you because they just want you to shut up and go away.

We've all seen or been people who say I forgive you but we don't really mean it we just want this to stop.

We just want to move on and do something else.

God's forgiveness is not like that.

God doesn't say I forgive you just cuz he wants us to get out of his presence because we are so offensive to him.

With God there is true, complete and lasting forgiveness for our sins.

For those who cry out to God will be forgiven for their sins.
Those who cry out to God instead of condemnation will find salvation.
Those who cry out to God instead of judgment we'll find his grace abundant
Those who cry out to God instead of punishment will find reward.
Those who cry out to God instead of being abandoned will be adopted.
Those who cry out to God instead of being Cast Away will be brought in close.
Those who cry out to God instead of being rejected will be restored.
Those who cry out to God instead of wasting away will be washed white.
Those who cry out to God instead of being cursed they'll be cleaned.

Those who cry out to God will find forgiveness.
Because in our God.
In Jesus Christ there is forgiveness.

How unbelievable is this?
How astonishing and otherworldly?
Even though our God has records of the deepest darkest parts of our sin,
we do not get what we deserve.
We get God's grace.
And all of those records that God has kept are covered with the blood of Jesus.
When God goes to read them he doesn't see the list of all the things that we have done because Christ's blood is too thick.
He only sees Jesus shed his blood in order to forgive our sins.
And God puts our sins as far as the East is from the West.
And our God remembers them no more.
Not because his memory is fading.
Not because he is getting old and starting to lose it.
Our God remembers them no more because He has forgiven us.

If you are not a follower of God,
if you are not a Christian,

I invite you to cry out to God,
Because there is forgiveness for you.

And that forgiveness is not based on how good of a person you are.
Because if our Salvation was dependent on our actions we are all
condemned to hell.

But our salvation depends on Jesus.

The forgiveness of God does not come because we are so worthy but

Because our God is so gracious.

Because our God is so loving.

Because our God is so kind.

Because our God is so compassionate.

Because our God is a forgiving God.

So cry out to Him and you will find forgiveness.

You do not have to be afraid.

You do not have to be ashamed.

You do not have to feel like an insignificant worm.

You do not have to feel that you are unlovable.

Cry out to God.

Because there is forgiveness.

Verse 4 ends with something strange.

"that you may be feared."

Why does this mention fear?

In the Bible fear of the Lord is not the same thing as being afraid of
people.

This does not mean that God's forgiveness should leave us shaking in our
boots.

It is not the kind of fear you might have around an abuser.

Someone that you walk in eggshells around because you are afraid if you
make them angry then you will be physically hurt.

That is not what the Psalmist is saying.

The fear we should feel is a fear of respect and awe.
It is a fear that leads to amazement and wonder.
It should leave us in awe that God would somehow forgive us.
It should make us step back in wonder at how our God could be like this.
His forgiveness should change us.
It makes us act differently out of gratitude.

And fear of the Lord is revealed not in our emotions or feelings.
It is revealed in how we act.
How do you act after you have been forgiven?
After all of your sins have been wiped clean.
After all of your shame is removed.
All of your guilt is washed away.
How should you act towards God?

Should you go back and commit the same sins God just forgave you for?
Should you turn your back on God and act as if He does not matter?
Or should you be trying to live a righteous life out of gratitude?
Should you live with a fear of the Lord?

III. Cry to the Lord because He will redeem you (v. 5-8)

We can cry out to the Lord because we know that His redemption will come.
We can cry out to the Lord because His redemption is sure.
His redemption is coming.
We only have to wait.

Verse 5, **"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;"**

When you cry out to the LORD, you need only wait.
The word used for waiting here describes waiting for the harvest.
When you plant crops you have to wait for them to grow.
It doesn't happen over night.
And often you have to wait months.

I know many of you here are gardeners.
When you plant seedlings how fast do those grow?
It doesn't happen right away.
And you can't make them grow faster.
You can't pop a plant in the microwave and grow it in an hour or two.
You just have to wait.

But with harvests and flowers you have to wonder.
You know something will grow but you don't know how much.
You don't know how many of the seedlings will make it.
You don't know if this will be a lean harvest or a booming one.

But we do not have that kind of uncertainty with God.
We have to wait.
Sometimes we have to wait far longer than we want to.
But we do not have to wonder what is at the end.
We can have certainty.

Why?

Because our hope is in His word.

"In His Word I hope."

Our hope is in the Holy Scriptures.
Our hope is that all the promises God has made in the Scriptures are true.
Our hope is that God does not lie.
Our hope is that Psalm 130 is right.
Our hope is that all of the Psalms can be trusted.
Our hope is that the God's promise to hear our cries is right.

And so we wait, but we wait with hope.
And our hope should be an expectant hope.
It should be a hope that looks forward to God keeping His promises.

Verse 6, **"My soul waits for the Lord more than the watchmen for morning, more than watchmen for the morning."**

Our soul waits for God.

The watchman waits for morning because he has to be awake all night.

He stays awake at the walls looking out in the darkness for enemies.

When the morning comes it means he can go to bed.

And when the morning comes it means the danger has passed.

The watchman is always waiting for the dawn.

Our souls should wait like the watchmen, but even more.

Maybe a different image would help you see it.

Our souls should wait like a dog sitting at the door for its owner to return.

Our souls wait like a high school senior waits for the end of the school day.

Our souls wait like a factory worker waiting for the clock to hit 5.

Our souls wait like a child waits for Christmas morning.

Our souls wait like a groom waiting for the bride to come down the aisle.

We wait in expectation and joy.

We wait knowing that God is coming.

We wait on the edges of our seat.

We wait knowing that God will come.

And He brings redemption when He comes.

Verse 7, **"O Israel, hope in the LORD! For there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption."**

The people of God are commanded to put their hope in God.

Our waiting is the waiting of hope.

We have hope because of God's steadfast love.

This steadfastness is God's faithfulness.

It is His Heseed.

The Hebrew word describing God's covenant loyalty.

How He sticks closer than a brother.

How He will never abandon you.

How He will never ever change His mind.

He will never get bored with us and want something new to mix things up.
His love will never change.

Because our God is the unchanging God His love is steadfast.

He will not turn into a different kind of God He will always remain the
steadfast and faithful God.

He is the anchor that keeps us safe in the storm.

He is the storm shelter that is faithful as the winds howl and the hail rains
down.

His love is steadfast.

And His love does not change based on what you did today.

God will not love you more this morning because you made it here to
church on time.

God will not love you more if you've been doing great with your Bible
reading.

God will not love you more if you've been putting extra time into your
prayer life.

God's love is not dependent on our works.

because His love is steadfast.

And God will not love you less if you sin a lot today.

God will not love you less if today you are filled with despair and doubt.

God will not love you less if you are filled with hate and anger.

God will not love you less if you relapse today into that old addiction.

His love does not go up and down based and how much you do or do not
sin.

There is steadfast love.

And that's steadfast love is here available to you.

And we have hope because **"with him is plentiful redemption."**

His Redemption will not run out.

This means that there is more than enough of God's grace for you.

God's Redemption is much like a grand feast.

And every sinner is welcome to come and eat because there is plenty.

And there is going to be plenty of leftovers you cannot eat too much.
You cannot drink too deeply of God's grace.
The blood of Christ will never run out.
His mercies are new every morning.
Every time that you sin you will discover that God's grace continues and continues forever.

There's more than enough Grace.
There is more than enough Redemption.

One of my favorite things in stories is when a despicable villain gets redeemed.
When you watch someone who you hate in their misery and slowly throughout the story they start to turn towards the light.
And finally, the moment comes at the end where they make a choice, usually, that leads to their death but that redeems them.
But in stories, there's usually people that are too far gone.
There are those villains that can't be redeemed because what they've done is too terrible.
If the story tries to redeem them as the viewer or the reader we would just get angry because that's not satisfying.
But in the story that God is writing, there is plentiful redemption.
Anyone can be redeemed to put their faith in Jesus Christ.
Anyone.

Verse 8, **"And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities."**

The promise here is that God will redeem Israel as a nation for all of their sins.

Israel had plenty of iniquities as a nation.

The Old Testament is filled with story after story of them.

Most people don't understand the Old Testament because it is so dark.

It's often bloody, violent, and wicked.

And it is because it honestly recounts Israel's sins.

Recounts the stories of how they murdered the prophets and the righteous.

Stories of murder, incest, rape, and child sacrifice.

Stories of how time after time despite God's patience they abandoned him for other gods.

Yet God promises "he will redeem Israel from all his iniquity."

all of his sins are dealt with at the cross.

As are yours.

Wait on the Lord.

Cry out to the Lord.

Because His Redemption is coming.

CONCLUSION:

1. [Summary] Cry out to the Lord because He will listen to you, He will forgive you, He will redeem you.
2. [Challenge] God will make you new. It is available to anyone who cries out to Jesus for help. So, cry out to the LORD. No matter how deep in the muck you feel. He hears, He forgives, and He redeems.