

Psalm 43:1-5

Introduction: This concludes these combined psalms, repeating some of the concepts from Psalm 42.

The psalmist makes three requests of Elohim—43:1-2a

- 1) The psalmist requests God help in a difficult situation—43:1
 - a) Public problems
 - i) ¹ *Judge/vindicate* [Qal impv.] *me, O God,*
 - ii) *and contend* [Qal impv.] *my dispute against a non-lovingly-loyal nation!*
 - b) Private problems—*Rescue* [Piel impf.] *me from a man of deceit and injustice,*
- 2) What is the basis of these requests?
 - a) ² *because You are the God of my refuge/shelter.*

The psalmist asks two questions for “God my refuge”—43:2b

- 1) *Why have You rejected* [Qal pf.] *me?*—at least that’s what it feels like
 - a) The silence of God can, at times, seem unbearable.
 - b) Cf. Psalm 42:9
- 2) *Why do I go about* [Hithpael impf.] *mourning* [Qal act. ptc.] *because of the oppression of my enemy* [Qal act ptc.]?—i.e. why do I lose perspective so easily

The psalmist makes another request from God—43:3-4

- 1) What is the request? ³ *Send out* [Qal impv.]...
 - a) *Your light*—because the situation is dark and bleak
 - b) *and Your truth*;—because it is the only sure standard by which to evaluate the circumstances
- 2) What two things will God’s answer to this request bring about for the psalmist?
 - a) *these* (emphatically God’s light and truth) *will guide* [Hiphil impf.] *me* (to the right destination);
 - b) *they* (God’s light and truth) *will bring* [Hiphil impf.] *me to Your holy mountain and to Your dwelling places*,—which is where the psalmist has longed to be (42:2)
 - i) The mountain is not inherently holy. It is holy because God says so!
- 3) What will the psalmist do when he gets back to Jerusalem?
 - a) ⁴ *and/then I will go* [Qal impf.] *to the altar of God, to God my joy of rejoicing*,—the means by which to approach God in worship
 - b) *and I will acknowledge* [Hiphil impf.] *You with my lyre, O God, my God.*—a desire to publicly thank God for His provision and protection, mercy and grace

The psalmist challenging his own soul with two searching questions—43:5a

- 1) He challenges his soul with two questions

- a) ⁵ *Why are you cast down* [Hithpolet impf.], *O my soul,*
- b) *and why are you restlessly grumbling* [Qal impf.] *within me?*

A final command for the psalmist's own soul—43:5b

- 1) The command itself
 - a) *Wait* [Hiphil impv.] *on God,*
- 2) The reason for the command
 - a) *because I will yet acknowledge* [Hiphil impf.] *Him,*
 - i) *the salvation of my countenance—*
 - ii) *and my God.*

Summary and applications

- 1) Do we live in such a way that we can have boldness to ask God to vindicate our cause? Are we doing the right thing in the right way for the right reason? If so, ask!
- 2) “Corporate worship is such an important part of the life of the faithful. Worship together is a place of memory. Together we call to mind what it is so easy to forget alone—that God is good and that his steadfast love endures forever for those who trust in him. Corporate worship counters our society’s message of forgetfulness and sends a message both outwardly and inwardly that we are not alone. Worship is a place for testimony and celebration. It is a time of confession and forgiveness. It is a place where we remember the past, receive power to face the present, and conceive hope for tomorrow.” (Gerald Wilson, *Psalms* 1:680)
- 3) Do we long for God to be the joy of our rejoicing? From what and whom do we derive our deepest pleasure? This will be addressed next in Psalm 73.