



February 1, 2011 - Psalm 143:5

Hi everyone,

We are moving right along through Psalm 143 and God is continuing to speak. Before I share some thoughts about verse 5, let me encourage you with this: One of the joys of doing a larger passage is building each verse upon another in your heart. So, as you review each day, I encourage you to go back to verse 1 and work your way through each verse to the present one.

By reviewing this way, you will surprise yourself at how well you have learned the whole passage when we reach the end!

Psalm 143:5 in the NASB reads

"I remember the days of old, I meditate on all Thy doings, I muse on the work of Thy hands."

I find it interesting how a list of three is showing up again. Recall David's list of the three things the enemy was doing to him... **"persecuting my soul, crushing my life to the ground, making me dwell in dark places"** (v. 3). Last week we memorized verse 4 which revealed how all of this was affecting David. But verse five shows us that even though David felt paralyzed, he responded. In verse 5, David lists his three responses to the enemy's work. This is what he does. He

- **"remembers the days of old"**
- **"meditates on all Thy doings"**
- **"muses on the work of Thy hands"**

What does David do when the enemy is pummeling him (v.3)? What does he do when he is spiritually paralyzed (v. 4)? He gets his eyes off himself and looks at God. He does this in three ways and although they sound quite similar, they are quite different. Look at the differences in these words:

- *Remember* - to recall something forgotten
- *Meditate* - to think carefully about
- *Muse* - to think about in a deep way

We can almost see a sense of progression beginning with David remembering something he obviously forgot. In the face of the enemy's persecution he forgot how great God is. But once he remembered, he thinks carefully about God and all His doings, and he then thinks deep about God and the work of God's hands in his own life.

I love this because it gives us a battle plan. When the enemy is persecuting us, what do we need to do? Even if we feel paralyzed, we need to get our eyes off ourselves and **remember, meditate and muse** on our God. Remember what He has done in the past, meditate on all His ways and doings, and muse how His hands work in miraculous and marvelous ways. That is our battle plan... look at God!

There is one more thought I just have to share. I didn't see it at first but once I did, wow! Notice how David's three actions in verse 5 are in the present tense. At first I struggled to memorize it because it sounds a bit funny in the flow of the verses, but it makes great sense when you really think about it. See, so often we say what we will do to spiritually respond to the enemy and we never actually get around to doing it. Not David, he just does it... present tense. What a word for us today. Now that we know what to do, remember, meditate and muse... just do it!

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