

A person wearing a dark hooded cloak and holding a long staff stands in a field of tall grass. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun, which is partially obscured by a large tree on the left. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

A Heart Like
God's

Part 9: Despised by Darkness

8 More than that, I count all things to be loss
in view of the surpassing value of knowing
Christ Jesus my Lord, *for whom I have suffered
the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish*
so that I may gain Christ,

Philippians 3:8–10

NASB95

9 and may be found *in Him*, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the Law*, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes from God on the basis of faith*,

so that I may know Him and the power of
His resurrection *and the fellowship of His*
sufferings, being conformed to His death;

Loving what God loves
means being hated by
those who hate what
God loves, and love
what God hates.

Our response to that
hostility determines how
deep we go into the Law
of Love.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 12:3-4

NASB95

4 You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

6 It happened as they were coming, when David returned from killing the Philistine, that the women came out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy and with musical instruments.

1 Samuel 18:6–16

NASB95

7 The women sang as they played, and said,
“Saul has slain his thousands, And David his
ten thousands.”

8 Then Saul became very angry, for this saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, but to me they have ascribed thousands. Now *what more can he have but the kingdom?*"

9 Saul looked at David with suspicion from that day on.

10 Now it came about on the next day that an evil spirit from God came mightily upon Saul, and he raved in the midst of the house, while David was playing *the harp* with his hand, as usual; and a spear *was* in Saul's hand.

11 Saul hurled the spear for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But *David escaped from his presence twice.*

Just because we begin to
experience persecution
for righteousness sake
does not mean we should
leave!

Sometimes we can tell we
are on track to extend
the Kingdom when those
who oppose us are those
who oppose the Kingdom.

12 Now *Saul was afraid of David*, for the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul.

1 Samuel 18:6–16

NASB95

13 Therefore Saul removed him from his presence and appointed him as his commander of a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.

14 David was prospering in all his ways for
the LORD *was* with him.

15 When Saul saw that he was prospering greatly, *he dreaded him.*

16 But *all Israel and Judah loved David, and he went out and came in before them.*

The same crowds that
cheer can as quickly
become the crowds that
jeer.

We should never base
our security and self-
worth in the rejection or
praises of people.

The ones who will resist
the move of God most
fervently will be those
who have a system to
protect.

David carried God's
own heart when he
endured unjust hostility
against himself without
sinning in return.

David knew his
descendant in the
fellowship of His
suffering 10000 years
before it happened!

For the choir director; upon *Aijeleth Hashshahar*. A Psalm of David.

Psalm 22

NASB95

1 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?
Far from my deliverance are the words of my
groaning.

2 O my God, I cry by day, but You do not
answer; And by night, but I have no rest.

3 Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned
upon the praises of Israel.

4 In You our fathers trusted; They trusted
and You delivered them.

5 To You they cried out and were delivered;
In You they trusted and were not
disappointed.

6 But I am a worm and not a man, *A reproach*
of men and despised by the people.

7 All who see me sneer at me; They separate
with the lip, they wag the head, *saying,*

8 *“Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.”*

9 Yet You are He who brought me forth from
the womb; You made me trust *when* upon my
mother's breasts.

10 Upon You I was cast from birth; *You have
been my God from my mother's womb.*

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near; For
there is none to help.

12 Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong
bulls of Bashan have encircled me.

13 They open wide their mouth at me, As a
ravening and a roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water, And *all my bones are out of joint*; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You
lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of
evildoers has encompassed me; *They pierced
my hands and my feet.*

17 *I can count all my bones. They look, they
stare at me;*

18 *They divide my garments among them, And
for my clothing they cast lots.*

19 But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You
my help, hasten to my assistance.

20 Deliver my soul from the sword, My only
life from the power of the dog.

21 Save me from the lion's mouth; From the
horns of the wild oxen You answer me.

22 I will tell of Your name to my brethren; *In
the midst of the assembly I will praise You.*

23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All
you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And
stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of
Israel.

24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

25 From You *comes* my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.

26 The afflicted will eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.
Let your heart live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations will worship before You.

*28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S And He rules
over the nations.*

29 All the prosperous of the earth will eat
and worship, All those who go down to the
dust will bow before Him, Even he who
cannot keep his soul alive.

30 Posterity will serve Him; It will be told of
the Lord to the *coming* generation.

*31 They will come and will declare His
righteousness To a people who will be born, that
He has performed it.*