

CREATING MARGINS

Making time for what's important in life

Meditation on Psalm 130

Psalm 130

¹ *Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;*

² *O Lord, hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.*

³ *If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?*

⁴ *But with you there is forgiveness; therefore you are feared.*

One might suppose that the LORD could only be addressed by important people living blameless lives. But this is the Psalm of a self-confessed sinner crying out for mercy from the depths. Draw up a mental record of your sins over the last day, week, year. This record means you could never stand before God. But this judgement is overridden in verse 4. There is forgiveness with God. 'If you, O LORD, kept a record of sins...' says verse 3. But verse 4 tells us that God does not keep a record of sins. God says: 'I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more' (Hebrews 8:12). In this one area alone you have a better memory than God! The sins you think you need to make good, he has for-got-ten.

⁵ *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope.*

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

What is the answer to busyness? It is to wait: to wait for the Lord and put our hope in his word. Think of all the ways you are restless trying to prove yourself or establish your identity. Think of the times you are busy to impress others. The Psalmist tells us to stop our frenetic activity and wait for the Lord.

⁷ *O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.*

⁸ *He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.*

God himself entered our world to redeem his people from all their sins. He became a man, lived among us, humbled himself and became obedient to death. On the cross he took our place. He was the sacrifice of atonement and the Passover Lamb who redeems God's people. And so with the Lord is unfailing love and full redemption. Unfailing and complete. His love never runs out and his salvation is wholly adequate. Every act of self-justification is a denial that with the Lord there is full redemption. We act as if Christ's death goes so far, but we somehow need to be busy completing the job with our petty attempts to self-atone. We act as if God's love will fail if we are not busy proving ourselves worthy. Unfailing love and full redemption set us free ('redeem us') from self-justifying busyness.