

Waiting

- What is waiting like?
 - boring?
 - frustrating?
 - exciting?
 - painful?
- How can we wait?
 - expectant
 - patiently
 - impatiently
 - eagerly
 - excitedly
 - resignedly

Situation/Trouble

- By inference, David is in a challenging, difficult situation, one where enemies are advancing against him:
 - is he speaking literally of battles and conflict, perhaps more of his early years before he becomes king, of Saul coming to find him in the wilderness?
 - or is it later, as enemies conspire against his rule as king, and the **advance** is of a plot, the **devouring of flesh** an eating up of all that David has worked for and accomplished?
 - (doesn't matter, really!)
- *I rather suspect that this is written **anticipating future trouble, but out of the experience of difficult times in the past***
 - its on the horizon, its coming into focus, but David is not yet completely embroiled in it
 - he has the space and time to reflect, to pray, to compose this song to express his grappling...
- *There is here a plea to God and a "plea" to himself*

Seek his face (v.8)

- Whatever else he might choose to do, whatever else might seem helpful or appropriate, the critical thing David understands himself to need to do is **turn to God, seek his face**
 - the is the **one thing** he asks
 - this is the culmination, the focus of his life's work **v.4**
 - destination is God's presence
- Involves:
 - being involved in worship, eg **v.6**
 - asking God for help, **v.4,7**
 - learning, engaging with who God is, with his revelation of himself supremely in Scripture, **v.11**
- *(Personal struggle with the language of a passage like this... "My heart says of you, 'Seek his face!'...)*
 - does my heart ever say of God, seek his face?
 - or is it for me a choosing to turn to God, an intentional, decision led thing?
 - but that is more the way I operate in other spheres of life, so I think this is OK
 - or **gave upon the beauty of the Lord...** (does reading a commentary count?)
- We are all incomplete this side of glory, with God in process of re-making us to bear his full likeness
 - **so there are bits that I don't get now... maybe will get more as I am changed by God's Spirit living and working in me... and will certainly get completely when I am with im in eternity...!**

Do not hide your face (v.9)

- Conscious that it is not our own effort in seeking God, in turning to him, that "gets results..."
 - plea to God not to hide his face...
 - has David experienced this in the past?
 - he certainly expressed the feeling of God hiding his face at various points...
- More than a mere subjective sense that God is distant, even though he is always with us...
 - he speaks of God turning away in response to our sin... (v.9)
 - so wrapped up here is repentance, a desire for forgiveness and restoration of the closeness of relationship, whether it is experientially felt, or intellectually understood
 - he asks, confident that God will receive him - more so than even a mother or father (v.10)

I will see the goodness of the Lord (v.13,14)

- Confident conclusion, that he will see God's goodness before death
 - he hasn't seen it yet...
 - but experience has suggested that it will happen...
 - but even if it doesn't, yet he will trust in God, because he knows him to be good and worthy of trust...