



Listening to your Longings: a Readers' Theater in 4 Voices

From Psalm 42, Matthew 9:18-26, Genesis 30:1-24, Genesis 21:8-21

Psalmist: As a deer longs for flowing streams,

so my soul longs for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God,

for the living God.

Narrator: Suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before Jesus, saying,

Voice 1: My daughter has just died; but come near and lay your hand on her, and she will live.

Voice 2: Come near!

Psalmist: My tears have been my food day and night.

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

Narrator: When Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, she envied her sister; and she said to Jacob,

Voice 2: 'Give me children, or I shall die!'

Voice 1: Give me , O God, give me.

Psalmist: Deep calls to deep

at the thunder of your cataracts;

all your waves and your billows

have gone over me.

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

Narrator: When the water in the skin was gone, Hagar cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said,



Voice 1: ‘Do not let me look on the death of the child.’

Voice 2: Do not let me...

Psalmist: I say to God, my rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?”

Narrator: And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept.

Voice 1: My soul thirsts for the living God.

Voice 2: My soul thirsts for the living God.

Narrator: Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself,

Voice 2: ‘If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.’

Voice 1: If only!

Psalmist: As with a deadly wound in my body,

my adversaries taunt me,

while they say to me continually,

‘Where is your God?’

All: My soul thirsts for the living God.

Narrator: Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, ‘Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.’ And instantly the woman was made well.

Voice 1: Take heart!

Voice 2: Take heart!

Psalmist: Why are you cast down, O my soul,

and why are you disquieted within me?

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,

my help and my God.

Voice 2: Hope in God!



Voice 1: My help and my God.

Narrator: Then God remembered Rachel.

Voice 2: God remembered!

Voice 1: God remembered!

Voice 2: Hope in God!

Voice 1: Hope in God!

Voice 2: My help and my God.

Voice 1: My help and my God.

Narrator: The angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, 'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.'

Voice 1: Do not be afraid!

Voice 2: God has heard!

Voice 1: Hope in God!

Voice 2: My help and my God.

Narrator: When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute-players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, 'Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.' And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

Psalmist: Why are you cast down, O my soul?

Voice 2: and why are you disquieted within me?

Voice 1: Hope in God

Voice 2: For I shall again praise God.



Voice 1: Praise God!

Praise God: Praise God!

Voice 1: My soul -

Psalmist: Hope in God!

Voice 2: Thirsts for God -

Psalmist: My help and my God!

Voice 1: My soul thirsts for God -

Psalmist: My help and my God!

Voice 2: For the living God.

Voice 1: My help - and my God!

Pause ...

Narrator: Word of God.

Psalmist : Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God!