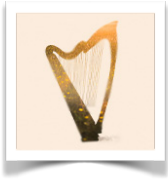


Study Guide for *Dangerous Songs: The Psalms and a Gloriously Disrupted Life*



Outrage

Chapter 5

Pages 91-108

First Words of Outrage

- What comes to mind when you think “protest.”
- Have you ever experienced what the author calls “denial theology?” In that perspective, what is emphasized and what is left out?

A Theology of Lament

- A theology of lament opens the deepest part of our humanity to be honest. Discuss. Is there room for lament in your community’s worship life?
- From page 92: *“Far from simple, the theology of the Psalms is more mosaic than systematic— one-hundred-fifty windows of experience from a people faithfully wrestling with the Source of Life.”* Do you find this frustrating or liberating? Why?

The Language of Grief

- The lament formula includes addressing God, a description of trouble, a big ask, declaring trust, and, finally, praise. The author says this is a trajectory of hope. In what ways is this helpful for people in the 21st century?

Despair Over Systematic Injustice

- Listen to **Mama, Oh Mama** (Psalm 34). What do you notice?

Political Outrage

- Listen to **Justice is On its Way** (Psalm 94). If you’re part of a faith community, what have you sung or spoken together after tragedies?
- Listen to **I Love the Keeper of Life** (Psalm 116). It’s not easy to live with the paradox of a world in crisis that is also in God’s care. Discuss.
- In your community of faith, what place does anger and outrage have?

Who Needs Protection?

- What groups of people in your society are most vulnerable, and in what ways are they open to harm?
- Listen to **Pay Attention** (Psalm 140) is all its lamentiness.

Numb Dismay

- What experiences of numbness have you heard about? Have you experienced this kind of grief?
- Listen to **Raise Your Heads** (Psalm 110). There's lots of room for interpretation for this psalm. What does it mean to you?

Disgust For Evil

- Of the many metaphors for the renewed life found in Psalm 51, which is the most meaningful and which ones rub you the wrong way?
- Give an example of abuse of power.

Countless Areas of Concern

- The author describes the violent images in Psalm 58. How do you feel about this aggressive tone?
- Listen to **Deliver Us** (Psalm 58) and discuss the petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Deliver us from evil."
- The author suggests that a psalm like this helps us in the 21st century name that which is need of healing. What needs healing right now?

Personal Abuse

- Like Psalm 58 above, Psalm 109 is a venting rant full of curses. Have you ever had intense emotions you needed to vent so no damage was done? What are cathartic outlets for you? (e.g.: music, exercise, movies, being with friends, games)
- Listen to **A Curse Assurance Non-Violence** (Psalm 109). Discuss.
- When is a time your ideas about God changed? Was that moment related to a particular experience?

Terrorism

- Outrage is an emotional response of profound fury, disgust, shock, resentment and/or indignation to a violation of decency. How do people respond to other people's outrage? When is a time you felt furious?

Songs of Resistance

- Listen to **Restore Us** (Psalm 80). What is an area of your life that is ready for renewal, rehab, repair, or restoration?

The Cringe Mirror

- Politics is relationship on a large scale— the organization of power to connect parts of a society. What political realities were the psalmists 3000 years ago dealing with? How are today's realities the same or different?