

# On Being Reminiscent

## A Study of Psalm 77

**Psalm 77:1** <To the Chief Musician. To Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.> **I** cried out to God with **my** voice—To God with **my** voice; And He gave ear to **me**. **2** In the day of **my** trouble **I** sought the Lord; **My** hand was stretched out in the night without ceasing; **My** soul refused to be comforted. **3** **I** remembered God, and was troubled; **I** complained, and **my** spirit was overwhelmed. Selah **4** **You** hold **my** eyelids open; **I** am so troubled that **I** cannot speak. **5** **I** have considered the days of old, The years of ancient times. **6** **I** call to remembrance **my** song in the night; **I** meditate within **my** heart, And **my** spirit makes diligent search. **7** Will the Lord cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? **8** Has His mercy ceased forever? Has His promise failed forevermore? **9** Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah **10** And **I** said, "This is my anguish; But **I** will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High." **11** **I** will remember the works of the LORD; Surely **I** will remember **Your** wonders of old. **12** **I** will also meditate on all **Your** work, And talk of **Your** deeds. **13** **Your** way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God? **14** **You** are the God who does wonders; **You** have declared **Your** strength among the peoples. **15** **You** have with **Your** arm redeemed **Your** people, The sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah **16** The waters saw **You**, O God; The waters saw **You**, they were afraid; The depths also trembled. **17** The clouds poured out water; The skies sent out a sound; **Your** arrows also flashed about. **18** The voice of **Your** thunder was in the whirlwind; The lightnings lit up the world; The earth trembled and shook. **19** **Your** way was in the sea, **Your** path in the great waters, And **Your** footsteps were not known. **20** **You** led **Your** people like a flock By the hand of Moses and Aaron. *NKJV*

### Big Idea:

**Psalm 77:11** I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.

*NKJV*

## For Reflection & Discussion

1. Have you experienced a time in your life when, in the midst of some trouble, you felt like God was unresponsive to you? What was it like? Did you begin to question God's presence or character?
2. In Psalm 77, Asaph feels abandoned by God. How does it make you feel to know that he struggled with God and God had him write about it in the Bible?
3. Think deeply about this question: Do you want to feel good more than you want God?
4. Moralistic Therapeutic Deism (MTD) was coined by sociologist, Christian Smith, to describe the following religious viewpoint: *God wants me to be nice, to feel happy, and to be delivered from pain. And outside of being available when I need Him, God will not interfere all that much with my life.*

To what extent do you sense this way of thinking among professing Christians in our American culture? To what extent do you think you might be influenced by it?

5. Consider the personal pronouns highlighted in Psalm 77 on the front of this Sermon Guide ("I," "me," "my," "you," "your"). What does the pattern suggest to you about how you can get through darkness and find your way to thanksgiving?
6. As you approach Thanksgiving this week, identify one work of God that has touched your life. To what extent are His majesty, mystery, and mercy evident in that work? Challenge: Write your own psalm this week based on your thoughts inspired by Psalm 77. Perhaps you could share it to someone on Thanksgiving Day.
7. Some related Scriptures for further reflection: Exodus 15:1-18; Joshua 24:1-15; Psalm 23; Matthew 27:36; John 10:11; Romans 8:32.

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NKJV