

# WALKING WITH GOD series

## BEARDING THE LION living by the word and not emotions

by Lethogonolo Lesomo

23 June 2024



- Bearding the lion in his lair
- Based off 1 Sam 17
- It is about acknowledging and confronting our emotions within the frame of lament prayer
- Lament: expressing sorrow, or dealing with emotions

- Living by the word and not emotions

- Heb 4 :12 – 13

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- What do we do with our emotions?

- Do we ignore them?

- Do we express them?

- Acknowledge and express them towards a relational God.

- Old testament.
- Gospel (Matthew, Mark and Luke).
- Romans 8
- Practical implications.

We will see what is expressed, how it is expressed and where it is expressed.

- Psalm 13

1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and day after day have sorrow in my heart?  
How long will my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God.

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death,

4 and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him,"  
and my foes will rejoice when I fall.

- Psalm 13

5 But I trust in your unfailing love;  
my heart rejoices in your salvation.

6 I will sing the Lord's praise,  
for he has been good to me.

1. Invocation (verse 1) : calling out to the LORD by name
2. Complaint (verse 1-2): describe what is wrong
3. Petition (verse 3-4): ask for help
4. Trust (verse 5-6): make a statement of trust

NB: not always neat and tidy, because life is messy, and prayer is messy.

- Matthew 26:36-46
  - 39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

Invocation: addressing “My Father”

Complaint: the cup

Petition: take the cup away from me

Trust: Yet not as I will, but as you will



- Mark 14:32-46
  - “Abba,[a] Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

Invocation: addressing “Abba, Father”

Declaration of confidence: everything is possible for you

Complaint: the cup (suffering)

Petition: take this cup from me

Trust: yet not what I will, but what your will

- Luke 22:39-46
  - “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.”

Invocation: addressing “Father”

Complaint: the cup (suffering)

Petition: take this cup from me

Trust: yet not my will, but yours be done

- Liminal space: the already and not yet
- Romans 8:14-22
  - 14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.
  - 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.[f] And by him we cry, “Abba,[g] Father.”
    - Invocation: initiated by the Spirit

- Romans 8:14-22 (already and not yet)
  - 22 We know that the **whole creation has been groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but **we ourselves**, who **have** the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly** as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.
    - Petition: by and with the Spirit

- Liminal existence: tension of the already and not yet
  - The already (Rom 8:14 are children of God, Rom 8:15 brought your adoption into sonship)
  - Not yet (Rom 8:22 we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies)

- Penitence (Repentance)
- Protest (breaks the silence)
- Participate (embody/come alongside)
  - Listening to others.