



SING IN THE DESERT

By Rev. Will Nelken

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All this month, the Sunday sermons will spring from the lyrics of Brooke Ligertwood's "Desert Song." Its very title expresses a special kind of faith—to sing a song while lost in a desert. The song's theme is clear: whatever your season in life, you just need to remember that you have *more than enough reasons* to sing and worship God.

The first verse paints a scene for us:

*This is my prayer in the desert
When all that's within me feels dry*

This desert is not the wilderness of the Mojave Desert, but it feels like the Mojave in many ways.

The kind of desert the songwriter is describing is *inside* the mind. It's an emotional desert, that feels vast, yet empty. In this desert, wherever you look, everything is the same, yet nothing is familiar, and you feel uncomfortably out of place, and alone.

Maybe because of the heat, or the length of time you've been in that desert (or both), you're thirsty. You feel dry inside. Nothing you read refreshes you. Nothing anyone says to you provides encouragement. Even your favorite food brings you no pleasure. You are depressed.

You have little motivation, and nothing you try seems to work for you. When you think about Christ, you have doubts, because you're no longer stirred as you once were. Weakness, of mind and body, creates a kind of lethargy. Maximum effort yields only minimal reward.

Where is God? Has He abandoned you? Did you commit the unpardonable sin? Did you ever really know the Lord? Does He really exist? Is the Gospel just more fake news?

Your thoughts are dry. Your words are dry. Your heart is dry. Even your body feels dry. Where you remember finding a river before, there is only dry sand today.