* Name, corpus, compsci, CA (role)
* College guest: meaning
  + Want them to think of how to use me: even just introduction
  + Hope to meet up with some to think it through

The events week coming up is called REAL, with the idea of being real with ourselves, being real with others around us, and the fact we can be real with God. We’re going to look at Psalm 130 now and think a bit about what it has to tell us about that theme. ***[pray] [read]***

1. What emotions does the writer of this Psalm go through? Shout them out, and where in the Psalm you see them, and I’ll write them down in about the right place.
2. DESPAIR (v1-3). What is it in these verses that drives the psalmist to this place of despair? What are they thinking about, what are they experiencing, what do they think they need?
3. DESIRE (v3-6). What is it that moves the Psalmist from the place of despair, to a place of Yearning? Why should it do so?
   1. The image of the watchmen waiting for the morning (the security guard or porter doing his rounds at 3am) is repeated twice here. What is it about the image that the Psalmist really wants to draw out?
4. HOPE (v7-8). This confidence gives the Psalmist a sure hope.
   1. Why do you think the Psalmist moves from the first person singular ‘I’ to the collective ‘Israel’? What does this tell you about the hope they have?
   2. What do these verses tell you about the nature of the redemption that is offered? (Who does it?)
   3. Where does Jesus fit in to this?

REAL is coming up in less than 2 weeks. The idea of REAL is not just that God is REAL, although that is the starting point, but that we must be real with ourselves, real with the others around us, and most of all real with God. The Psalmist here starts by being brutally real with themselves: “out of the depths I cry” – they know that things are not as they should be, that they need mercy before God, but sometimes he feels distant.

And then they’re real with God. The Psalmist comes to Him and says “if you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?”. The Psalmist is real with God, but doesn’t find condemnation there. This is not a massive guilt trip, all about us – no the Psalmist is real with God and finds hope. They yearn for more of Him.

And so they turn to the others around them – to the nation of Israel – and say “look, I’m not perfect, I was in a pit, I needed mercy – but God, the Lord, made a way for us to come back to Him. – ‘He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins’”.

1. How can we be real with our friends in the coming weeks? What does this Psalm teach us about ourselves, and God?
2. How do you think you could use this Psalm to encourage a friend to be real with themselves, and to show them they can be real with God? What questions would you ask?