

Psalm 41

V: 1-3 “Blessed” - “Oh how happy” is he that considers the poor. There is inherent blessing to those who seek to minister to the poor from the Lord.

- There are many many scriptures that address how we are to treat the poor, the widows, and the fatherless in our midst, that we’re not to take advantage of them because God is their protector.

Proverbs 29:7 “The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.”

Proverbs 19:17 “He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will He repay him again.”

- When people think of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, most people associate that with the sin of homosexuality, but the sin of homosexuality is actually just a symptom of a deeper issue.

Ezekiel 16:49 “Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy.”

James 1:27 “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.”

- David declares some of the benefits of ministering to the poor; 5 points of blessing:
 1. ²The Lord will preserve / protect that man.
 2. The Lord will keep him alive.
 3. He shall be blessed upon the earth, he will have God’s favor.
 4. He will not be delivered to the will of his enemies.
 5. ³The Lord will strengthen him upon his sick bed.

“^{3b}... *thou wilt make all his bead in his sickness*” - simply meaning that God will heal him when he is sick.

- It think that the biggest blessing is that in ministering to the poor, we will be pleasing to God.
- At this point either David considers himself amongst the poor that need His help, or that because he’s ministered to the poor he needs His help, either way David needs His help.

V:4 *“Lord be merciful to me”* - “Lord heal me” then the admission, the confession *“For I have sinned against Thee.”*

- David knows that only God can do that restorative work in his life - so he humbles himself, confesses his sins, and makes his appeal.

Psalm 51:4, 7, 10 *“⁴Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”* - *“⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.”* - *“¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”* (*God is the One doing all the work.*)

V: 5-8 David is somewhat despairing, lamenting that his enemies speak of his eminent demise. People come and try to gain his confidence, asking how he's doing and so on, doing so only so they can go out and spread rumors. Whispering, murmuring, things that God hates.

Proverbs 20:19 (NIV) *“A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much.”*

Psalm 34:13 *“Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.”*

★ V: 9 This is a Messianic verse. The short term fulfillment was through Ahithophel, David's close friend and advisor who sided with Absalom in his rebellion against his father. A painful blow to David when he was low.

- Everyone remembers David's sin with Bathsheba and the subsequent murder of her husband Uriah the Hittite. Not everyone is as familiar with the fact that Bathsheba was Ahithophel's grand daughter and that David's sin impacted Ahithophel in a very negative way where he allowed a root of bitterness to grow.
- Ahithophel would be justified in being upset by what took place, but he should have confronted David with it, dealt with it in a Biblical manner - there is no biblical record that he did. Instead he allowed his bitterness to grow, which eventually resulted in his own destruction.

Warning:

Hebrews 12:15 *“Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;”*

- The Messianic fulfillment was in Jesus who was betrayed by Judas Iscariot for 30 pieces of silver, the man who ate at Jesus' table, the man whose feet Jesus washed, the man whom Jesus loved, betrayed him with a kiss.

John 13:18, 21 “¹⁸I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, “He that eateth bread with Me hath lifted up his heel against Me.” - “²¹When Jesus had thus said, He was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, verily verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray Me.”

Intriguing

- As you look through the Gospel accounts on this where it’s mentioned you’ll note that the phrase from the Psalm “... *in whom I trusted*...” is not quoted by Jesus, He left that part out. Jesus knew that Judas wasn’t saved, and that he’d betray Him. (Jn. 6:70-71).

V: 10-11 Again the plea - “*O Lord, be merciful unto me...*” David repeats it, just as we’ve probably repeated it.

- **Mercy:** not getting the punishment that we deserve. God in His mercy doesn’t give us what we deserve, we deserve eternal damnation. God in His grace gives us what we don’t deserve - salvation, redemption, eternal communion, and fellowship with Him.
 - That he may “requite” them, or pay them back. “Lord demonstrate your favor towards me by giving me victory over my enemies.” (Proof)
- Gripping
- God has demonstrated or affirmed His love for us, his favor on the cross, that our eternal enemy would not and can not triumph over us!
 - He affirms His love for us every day in so many ways. My favorite ways are when He answers prayer (either way), when He speaks to an issue through His Word, when someone comes up and says that they’re listening to the radio station, He is such a blessing, love affirming God!

V: 12-13 You uphold me in my integrity, in his heart David is trying to honor God, and God has upheld him and been his help through so many trials.

- David says “*you’ve set me before your face for ever.*” I get to be in your presence! Answered prayer!

Psalm 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

- David ends seeking to bless God, proclaiming blessing to the eternal God.

“*From everlasting, and to everlasting.*” “Amen and Amen.”

- So ends the first of the 5 books of Psalms, each book ends with “**Amen and Amen.**”

- The psalms were written by a variety of human writers who were inspired by the Spirit. **David** wrote seventy-three of the one hundred fifty Psalms, and perhaps as many as thirty more. **The sons of Korah** wrote eleven; **Asaph** wrote ten; **Hezekiah** wrote two; and **Asaph, Heman, and Moses** each wrote one.
- The Psalms are divided into 5 books mostly along the lines of authorship.

Book 1 Psalms 1-41 primarily psalms of David.
Book 2 Psalms 42-72 primarily psalms of the Sons of Korah, + one of Asaph.
Book 3 Psalms 73-89 Asaph, Korah, and David.
Book 4 Psalms 90-106 All anonymous, although Psalm 90 is ascribed to Moses.
Book 5 Psalms 107-150 miscellaneous / catch all Psalms.

Psalm 42

V: 1-2 As the deer in the forest “panteth” - breathing hard, running towards, yearning for the water from the brooks, so David’s heart and soul longs for the Lord.

Psalm 119:131 “I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for Thy commandments.”

- The Psalmist is declaring that he too “panteth” - he’s breathing hard, running towards, longing for God’s Word.

Job said:

Job 23:12 “... I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.”

Jesus said:

Matthew 5:6 “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.”

- David declares in many different ways that he just wants to be with God - that should be our hearts as well!
- We don’t hunger and thirst for a dead religion, or a god that can’t do anything, like David, our desire is for the True and the Living God!

Matthew 22:32 “I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.”

- Every year the Jews celebrated the feast of Tabernacles, commemorating the Lord taking care of them during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. This was an 8 day celebration during which each day the priests would gather at the top of the steps to the Temple each with a silver pitcher in hand.

- Each day they would make a solemn procession down to the pool of Siloam and fill their pitchers up, then make their way back to the Temple. Once there, on cue they would pour out their pitchers of water in front of the people remembering how God had made water come out of the rock to quench their thirst.
- On the 8th day, the “great day” at the end of the feast they would stand at the top and turn their empty pitcher’s over signifying that God no longer provided that way as He brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey.
- At that moment as the nation was gathered in a hushed silence - Jesus stepped forward and declared:

John 7:37-38 “³⁷... If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. ³⁸He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

- Jesus is the only one who can quench our thirst for God, He is the only one who can satisfy our need.
- David is describing that universal thirst that is in every man, that thirst for a meaningful relationship with God, that desire for fulfillment that only God can accomplish.
- We can try to satisfy and fill that thirst with other things, only to find out that it just doesn’t satisfy and that we’re left wanting.

John 4:14 “But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.”

- When we come to realize what that emptiness in our lives really is, when we realize what is missing - and we invite Jesus to come into our lives He then fills that void that only He can fill and as we are “born again” we find that we are complete in Him for the first time in our lives.

Psalm 84:2 “My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.”

V: 3 David has been grieving and weeping day and night (hyperbole) he’s being poured out. His only food has been his tears, and at the same time he’s being mocked by those who are looking on who say “so, where is your God?” Kind of like Job’s comforters, if you are so good, why is this happening? You’ve got it coming.”

People pretty much say the same thing today:

2 Peter 3:3-5 “³Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, ⁴and saying, where is the promise of His coming?

For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation. ⁵For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water.”

Thought provoking:

- V: 1 The deer or the psalmist is panting, speaking of breathing, air.
V: 2 He describes his great thirst.
V: 3 The reference to meat or food.
- These are all things that are necessary for life, basic needs and drives within the human body that we can relate to - we need these things, but our greatest need is for God Himself!

Deuteronomy 30:20 “That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey His voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto Him: for He is thy life, and the length of thy days...”

V: 4 David is looking back and remembering, longing for the good old days of going with the multitude into the house of God, singing and praising His name.

- David has lost that consciousness of God being near unto him, God seemed distant from him.

Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and our sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.”

- David is suddenly aware of that separation and longing to be in fellowship with his Lord once again.

Romans 8:8 “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

So what's the cure?

James 4:8 “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

- That is when he asks himself: (V:5)

V: 5 David begins to ask himself - why am I cast down, why am I so sad?

- Hope in God! This is one of those places where David encouraged himself in the Lord. (1 Samuel 30:6)
- The Holy Spirit gave him the answer: “... *hope thou in God...*”

- *At that moment David made a conscious decision that in spite of all these things he was going to hope in God!*

“For the help of His countenance.” When we see His glory does that change our perspective on things? Oh yes! When we see His glory we begin to praise Him!

V: 6-7 David declares that he is as low as he can be, he is utterly cast down, unable to get up, and that he is crying out from the deepest part of his soul, the rain and the waves are crashing over his head, he’s going down.

“I will remember Thee...” He will cast his thought and his cares upon the Lord, he will remember the Lord. He is going to *“⁵hope thou in God!”*

V 8 It is in those darkest seasons that the Lord seems to shine the brightest!

The sun comes up and it's a new day:

Psalm 59:16 *“But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.”*

Meaningful

- Up to this point the word “Elohim” (God) has been used 8 times, and will be used 5 times more. At this point David uses “Jehovah” or “Yahweh” - the covenant name of God, the name that points to God keeping His promises, pointing to the faithfulness of God which David is counting on.

Lamentations 3:22-23 *“²²It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. ²³They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.”*

V: 9-11 David’s emotions, being honest with God - have you forgotten me?

- That taunt, that discouragement - it was like a sword going through his bones.

“^{10b}... where is thy God?”

- When the enemy taunts us with that question - and we’re not sure how to answer, because we don’t “feel” His presence.
- We may not “feel” his presence, but we know that He is always near - because that is what His Word declares! We trust in His Word, not in our emotions!

Psalm 18:2-3 *“²The Lord is my Rock, and my Fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my Buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my High Tower. ³I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”*

Psalm 119:151 *“Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth.”*

Matthew 28:20 "... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.
Amen."

Hebrews 13:5 "... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

- Then again, demanding of himself, regaining his focus - why am I so down cast?
Hope in God!
- I will yet praise Him, He is my salvation, the health of my countenance - He is my
God!

Psalm 92:1-2 "¹It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises
unto Thy name, O Most High: ²To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning,
and thy faithfulness every night."