

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

A NEW SONG IN MY MOUTH

(PT. 1)

PSALMS 40

Text:

Introduction:

It is widely accepted that David penned these words either while on the run from Saul or during Absalom's rebellion.

In this passage we find many things that are certainly great blessings.

Note:

1. OUR PATIENCE (VS. 1)

Psalm 40:1

¹ ***I waited patiently for the LORD;*** and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

That reveals just what it says, David waited for the Lord patiently.

It means "to wait, look for, to hope or expect."

Take just a moment to consider the life of David. His was not a quick and easy ascension to the throne of Israel.

Samuel had anointed him king, but he was forced to flee for his life for an extended period from Saul.

Then when it seemed as if all was well within the kingdom, David found himself on the run again as Absalom rebelled and sought his life.

Through it all, David never lost his faith or his focus. He had not chosen this path; God had called him and anointed him king.

Even in the valleys of life, David continued to wait upon the Lord.

This was a helpless and even hopeless situation at times, but David remained the faithful waiting and trusting the Lord.

We have all had times when we wonder how much more we would be able to endure.

We have all wondered when the Lord would show up and change our circumstances.

There are times when our faith is put to the test.

Many times the Lord has to get to the place that we feel helpless so that we can realize our need for him.

If we are truthful it's when things get desperate that we get determined in our prayer life.

You may be in the midst of a trial today.

You may not see any way that you will ever make it through the valley, but you must continue to wait upon the Lord.

We struggle waiting on the Lord do we not. But we must remember that He is always right on time.

Even in the situation of Lazarus where it appeared that He was 4 days late, but the Lord was right on time.

Remember:

Isaiah 40:31

³¹ But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

We see the importance of Patience. Note secondly:

2. OUR PETITION (VS. 1)

Psalm 40:1

¹ *I waited patiently for the LORD; **and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.***

David reveals that his patience in waiting upon the Lord proved beneficial. God had inclined to him and heard his cry or his prayer.

This reveals a couple of things regarding what we have in the Lord.

Notice:

A. His Affection – “inclined”

The Lord inclined unto David.

He was in a position in which he could not help himself.

His efforts and abilities were inadequate to resolve his desperate situation.

His only hope was that God would hear him and come to him.

The world inclined has the idea of “stretching out, bending toward.”

Isn't that a blessing? David had reached as far as he possibly could and even then he fell miserably short.

God stretched out His mighty hand and leaned in toward David, rescuing him from despair.

What a blessing it is that as the Lord hung upon the cross of Calvary, giving His life a ransom for the sins of the world, Christ reached out to man and up to God.

He bridged the gap that sin had caused!

In those times when things are beyond our ability the Lord is faithful.

As I have often said most things are beyond our control and it is comforting to me to understand that He hears our cry.

Remember:

Psalm 27:14

¹⁴ Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

We not only see His Affection but also we see:

B. His Awareness – “He heard my cry”

Psalm 40:1

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

As David cried out unto the Lord in desperation, He heard his plea for help.

The situation was hopeless; defeat seemed imminent, as David cried unto the Lord.

In a situation that looked hopeless, God was aware of David’s need and He responded to him.

For the believer it is a great blessing to know that we are never forsaken.

We all have those seasons in life that we feel as if we are all alone and not one knows or understands our need.

God is there and He has not forgotten. His eyes are upon those who belong unto Him and His ears are attentive to their needs.

He will not refuse the prayer of a submissive heart. God will respond to those who diligently seek Him.

Remember:

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that **he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.***

Psalm 116:2

² *Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.*

I don't know what you may be going through today, but we all have had trying times and difficult days. We have all had times when we doubted our faith and wondered if God was there or heard our cry.

I remind us that the same God that met our needs then is attentive to our plea for help today.

Remember:

Isaiah 65:24

²⁴ *And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.*

We have considered the importance of Our Patience and making Our Petition. Note thirdly:

3. OUR POSITION (VS. 2)

David reminds us of our position before the Lord changes our life.

Note:

A. Our Inability

Psalm 40:2

² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

When David sought the Lord he found himself in a horrible pit.

That literally means “a pit, well, or cistern.”

Clearly David was in a position that he could not rescue himself. He faced a situation that was beyond his ability to handle. His only hope was to be rescued by one who was able to free him from the bondage of the pit that he was in.

This is certainly a picture and true depiction of sin.

Prior to salvation, all are confined to the horrible pit of sin. In that state of captivity, mankind does not have the ability or the means to free himself.

The Lord is the only One who possess the ability and the right to free one from the pit of sin. Without the saving grace of the Lord, all would yet be bound by sin!

Many today have refused to admit their need before the Lord. They may be willing to admit that they are bound by sin and circumstances of life, but they refuse to accept that the Lord is the only means of escape. You can wrestle with the bondage of sin until you are completely exhausted, but you will only become more entrapped.

Salvation is of the Lord alone.

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹ Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

David not only reminds us of our Inability but also:

B. Our Iniquity (vs. 2)

Psalm 40:2

² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

David had been delivered from a horrible pit filled with miry clay.

He was in a place of confinement, covered in the mud, filth, and grime of his surroundings.

He describes a place that has little to be desired, a place of darkness, dampness, and miry clay.

I can imagine him being lifted out of that pit barely recognizable. His garments spotted and soiled from the mud that he was forced to lie in.

We too were bound in the pit of sin, within the miry clay of our iniquity. Our garments were spotted and soiled by the world. We no longer resembled the image in which we were created, but the sin that surrounded us.

Many may choose to deny or reject it, but all have been spotted by the world.

We are born in sin. Our lives are dictated by the desire to satisfy the flesh.

We have no desire for the things of God or His holiness. Just as David we were bound in a dark, damp, dirty place.

We all stood in need of rescue and redemption!

We have considered the importance of Our Patience and making Our Petition to the Lord, and Our Position prior to salvation. Note fourthly:

4. OUR PARDON (VS. 2)

Psalm 40:2

² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

As we look at this single verse in its context we discover the pardon that it proclaims.

There are a couple of aspects regarding our pardon that we need to consider.

Note:

A. Our Failures

As we've already considered, we were filled with iniquity in need of redemption, unable to secure that within ourselves.

We were all helpless and hopeless apart from God. But, in His abundant grace and mercy He came to where we were, lifted us out of the miry clay and placed our feet upon the rock.

When I consider the mercy of our Lord I stand amazed. I cannot fathom the love that our Lord had for those who were undeserving.

We were filled with sin, at enmity with God, having no desire for a relationship with Him or His holiness, and yet He came and offered Himself a ransom for our sin. He provided the source for our salvation.

He looked beyond our faults and failures to see our need!

Remember:

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹ For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Hebrews 12:2

*² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,** despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Not only do we see our failure but also we consider:

B. Our Forgiveness (vs. 2)

Psalm 40:2

² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

Isn't it amazing the grace and mercy that David describes in this verse? He speaks of God lifting him out of the pit of sin, from among the miry clay, and setting his feet upon a rock.

David was pulled from the slippery slope of sin and established upon the rock. God did not allow him to remain in the state that he was in, but cleansed him and set him upon the firm foundation.

I'm glad that the Lord rescued me from the slippery grip of the pit of sin.

By the way, the word rock refers to "a high and lofty cliff." We were lifted above the sin and care of this life, placed upon that high and lofty Rock.

Remember

Psalm 27:5

⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

The word pavilion speaks of the place where the king's tent was erected in the midst of a host of soldiers, a place of safety and security.

The word tabernacle speaks of that secret inner place where the king dwelt and only invited guests were allowed to enter.

What a blessing to be rescued from a horrible pit and placed upon the Rock!

This is a good place to conclude this evening and Lord will we will pick up here next week.

Before I close I want to do something a little different.

I want to play a song that kind of summarizes this message and what the Lord did in coming to us and lifting us up from that horrible pit and placed our feet upon a rock.

Play song: "He Came To Me"

Close:

As we close this evening, I wonder if we have considered lately what the Lord has done for us.

Are we mindful of His goodness and provision in our lives?

If you are saved, you have been lifted out of the miry clay and placed in the marvelous way.

That is something to rejoice about.

If you have never cried out unto the Lord and received His gracious gift of salvation, you remain in the pit of sin.

Why not seek the Lord and allow Him to lift you out and place you upon the rock.