

# O DELIVER ME

## PSALMS 43

Text: Psalms 43:1

### **Psalms 43:1**

<sup>1</sup> Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Introduction:

There is a question that men ask when the trials and storms of life gather. Often you will hear them ask, "Why do bad things happen to good people."

We all want to know why the bad things in life happen to good people we know, or even to good people like ourselves.

There is some debate as to who penned this particular Psalm. Some have suggested that it was David when he was fleeing from the revolt of his son Absalom. Others have suggested that it was king Hezekiah when Jerusalem was under attack from the Assyrians. Regardless of whether or not either of these is true, it would seem that the author of this Psalm is going through a time of stress, personal attack and inner turmoil. His life has brought him face to face with circumstances that are out of his control and they have brought pain and confusion to his heart.

As we read this Psalm, it becomes quickly evident that the Psalmist is a broken man. Yet, he clings to his faith in God as a man thrown overboard into the ocean clings to a life preserver.

As this man lifts his prayer to the Lord, he cries out in his despair, "O, Deliver Me!" I want to look at this man's prayer for deliverance from his troubles. I want us to see both the depth of his pain and the height of his faith in the Lord. We need this because there are times when we all cry out to the Lord "O, Deliver Me!" This Psalm offers us some reasons for encouragement in the midst of our troubles.

Notice:

## **1. THE BELIEVERS CRY (vs.1-3)**

### A. A Cry for Liberty (vs. 1-2)

#### **Psalms 43:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. <sup>2</sup>For thou *art* the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

The Psalmist feels trapped by his circumstances and he cries out to God for deliverance.

Notice what he wanted to be delivered from.

1. From the Slander of Men
2. From the Silence of God
3. From the Sorrow of Heart

## B. A Cry for Leadership (vs. 3)

### **Psalms 43:3**

<sup>3</sup>O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

He asks the Lord to lead him out of where he is and take him to where he should be.

#### 1. He Desires God's Word

He desires to be lead by truth and light. These are references to the Word of God. The Psalmist wants to hear the voice of God telling him what to do!

#### 2. He Desires God's Way – let them lead me

#### 3. He Desires God's Worship

The Psalmist longs to be in the place where he can worship the Lord.

## 2. THE BELIEVERS COMMITMENT (VS. 4)

### **Psalms 43:4**

<sup>4</sup>Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

The Psalmist makes certain promises to the Lord. He says that God's work in his life will be answered by God's worship from his life!

#### A. He Promises to Offer Sacrifices

He vows that he will make his way to the altar and offer a sacrifice.

#### B. He Promises to Offer Songs

Now the Psalmist promises to rejoice in the Lord. He vows to use his abilities to praise the name of the Lord.

## 3. THE BELIEVERS CONFIDENCE (VS. 5)

### **Psalms 43:5**

<sup>5</sup>Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, *who is* the health of my countenance, and my God.

The Psalmist knows that the Lord is working on his behalf and he knows that in the Lord's time, all troubles are going to fall by the way side. He expresses his confidence in the Lord in two ways.

## A. A Personal Challenge

He asks his soul a question: "Since God is in control of this thing, why are you so upset?" Then he tells his soul the only prescription it needs for joy in the valleys of life: "Hope in God! He has it all under control!"

## B. A Profound Certainty

Even though he is still in the dark valley, the Psalmist knows that he will soon come out of that valley in victory. How does he know this? It's very simple: He has his faith in God.

Close:

Have you been guilty of allowing the trials, troubles and valleys of life control you, steal your joy and ruin your life? If so, the secret to being free from their power in your life lies in the truth the Psalmist has taught us this evening.

1. Learn to take your burdens to the Lord.
2. Commit to living your life according to His will and praise Him even if it kills you.
3. Rest in the confidence that the valleys will soon be behind us forever.