

Psalms 41

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Psalms 41

Blessed is the evidence

Psalm 41

This poem is the last poem in Volume 1. This volume of poems begins with "blessed" and ends with blessed. The poem is divided into three stanzas, the first and fourth stanzas correspond, expressing that trusting in God will be saved; The second and third paragraphs correspond to the content of the prayer. The psalmist recounts his affliction and asks God to heal him. The last verse is a hymn and is the end of the book. The poem sharply contrasts the perfidious man with the remembrance of the God who saves people at all times. It is divided into the following sections: stating the principle that the weak will be blessed and favored; 2. There is no hope for man, even betrayal by friends; 3. God will protect and bless the good and the righteous. It is easy for people to become misanthropic and think that people are absolutely untrustworthy. But this is not in accordance with the teachings of the Bible. If others can't be trusted, then I'm not trustworthy. Therefore, the saints should be the first to love and trust their neighbor in God. Even if you are betrayed, you should believe and plead with God to bring justice to victory, as the psalmist praises in the epilogue.

In a person's life, birth, old age, sickness and death follow each other like a shadow. When we are sick, we are very weak and need special attention from others. But it is often also in times of trouble that our friends not only do not help us, but even hurt us with evil words. Like Job's three friends. What should we do in times of weakness? This psalm of David inspires us to hold fast to God's promises, to look to God's mercy, to rely on God's sufficient grace, to triumph in our enemies, to our sickness.

This article speaks of the blessed. Poverty refers to those who need pity and are unable to take care of themselves. vs 1-3 When it comes to the righteous who are afflicted or sick, God does not promise that believers will not be in trouble. But when we are in trouble, God delivers. Seriously ill on the couch.....

Make a bed for him: "sickbed" literally means "sickbed" and spiritually means "despair and distress." The psalmist portrays God as a kind man who stands by the bedside and watches over the sick. God is not only vast and vast, but also kind and delicate, and he is overflowing with love in the smallest details that exceeds our thoughts.

This reminds us that in our days of affliction and sickness, we should also grasp God's promises as David did. Come to God in prayer and read God's Word. God's Word comforts our hearts and gives us hope more than human words. When we experience God's love in God's Word and know that His grace is sufficient, our mindset will change, and we will no longer feel self-pity and face it positively. God said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." To do this, Paul learned to "boast of his weaknesses, that the power of Christ may overcome" him.

Verses 5–9 refer to David's interpersonal experiences while he was on his sickbed. Faced besieged on all sides, David knew that the enemy had bad intentions and wanted to talk about and plot against him. Nevertheless, among the sick, we should not be overly anxious, but think of God and God's love firmly. In life, old age, sickness and death, only God has absolute sovereignty. Don't give yourself to other people's opinions, but firmly believe in God who alone can decide everything in our lives. "And they said, A strange sickness was attached to him; He is lying down, and will not be able to rise again." vs 8 Later, however, David was healed, "because you are pure in me, you have upheld me, that I may stand before you forever." vs 12 Therefore, do not commit yourselves to the words of our enemies, both human and spiritual, who destroy and trample down our hearts through their words. Thank you, Lord, that we have God's Word! By God's Word, we know that He loves us and that His sovereignty for healing rests with Him. This reminds us of how much we need the support and companionship of our friends when we are sick and weak! So what can we do to help our friends when they are sick? Three words come to mind: listening, companionship, and encouragement. I hope that each of our brothers and sisters can be a help to those who are sick, listen to them with empathy, accompany them through difficulties, and encourage them to overcome their illness. Especially use God's Word to encourage a friend who is sick.

The fourth stanza (10-12) is the psalmist's prayer for revenge, hoping that God would heal him, so that those who thought of his death would be speechless. The psalmist knew that he had sinned, so he wondered in his heart that God still loved him and wanted to sustain him. He sinned, but now repented, and he has a pure heart that resolves to "stand before you forever." When we are weak, we mind being hurt, being betrayed, mind being attacked by others, being impatient with ourselves, and watching the attitude of others towards us. We need to ask ourselves whether we still have love to care for others when they are weak. David firmly believed that in his weak circumstances, God would help him, even if people were not good to him. So, in the last verse of the text, David can still praise God. "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Amen! Amen!" (v.13)

Let's pray together.

Dear Lord, you are a God of grace and mercy. In the day of our trouble, you delivered us. You save our lives, and our breath of life lies in you. Your days on earth are all you have given us. You have blessed us, and you will continue to bless your children. Lord, you are the God who heals us, because of your stripes we are healed, and because of your punishment we have peace. Lord, our enemies attack us while we are weak, and our friends will accuse us of their self-righteousness, but you are our God who has mercy on us! Let us stand before you. Lord, we will come and bless your glorious name from everlasting time to ever.

In the holy name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Psalm 41

The Psalmist in Sickness Complains of Enemies and False Friends.

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

41 Blessed [by God's grace and compassion] is he who considers the helpless;
The Lord will save him in the day of trouble.

2

The Lord will protect him and keep him alive;
And he will be called blessed in the land;
You do not hand him over to the desire of his enemies.

3

The Lord will sustain *and* strengthen him on his sickbed;
In his illness, You will restore him to health.

4

As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me;
Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

5

My enemies speak evil of me, *saying*,
"When will he die and his name perish?"

6

And when one comes to see me, he speaks empty words,
While his heart gathers malicious gossip [against me];
When he goes away, he tells it [everywhere].

7

All who hate me whisper together about me;
Against me they devise my hurt [imagining the worst for me], *saying*,

8

"A wicked thing is poured out upon him *and* holds him;
And when he lies down, he will not rise up again."

9

Even my own close friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me [betraying me].

10

But You, O Lord, be gracious to me and ^[a]restore me [to health],
So that I may repay them.

11

By this I know that You favor *and* delight in me,
Because my enemy does not shout in triumph over me.

12

As for me, You uphold me in my integrity,
And You set me in Your presence forever.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
 From everlasting to everlasting [from this age to the next, and forever].
 Amen and Amen (so be it).

God Sustains His Servant.

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

40 I waited patiently *and* expectantly for the Lord;
 And He inclined to me and heard my cry.

2

He brought me up out of a horrible pit [of tumult and of destruction], out of the miry clay,
 And He set my feet upon a rock, steadying my footsteps *and* establishing my path.

3

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;
 Many will see and fear [with great reverence]
 And will trust confidently in the Lord.

4

Blessed [fortunate, prosperous, and favored by God] is the man who makes the Lord his trust,
 And does not regard the proud nor those who lapse into lies.

5

Many, O Lord my God, are the wonderful works which You have done,
 And Your thoughts toward us;
 There is none to compare with You.
 If I would declare and speak of *your wonders*,
 They would be too many to count.

6

Sacrifice and meal offering You do not desire, *nor* do You delight in them;
 You have opened my ears *and* given me the capacity to hear [and obey Your word];
 Burnt offerings and sin offerings You do not require.

7

Then I said, "Behold, I come [to the throne];
 In the scroll of the book it is written of me.

8

"I delight to do Your will, O my God;
 Your law is within my heart."

9

I have proclaimed good news of righteousness [and the joy that comes from obedience to You] in the
 great assembly;
 Behold, I will not restrain my lips [from proclaiming Your righteousness],
 As You know, O Lord.

10

I have not concealed Your righteousness within my heart;
I have proclaimed Your faithfulness and Your salvation.
I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly.

11

Do not withhold Your compassion *and* tender mercy from me, O Lord;
Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me.

12

For innumerable evils have encompassed me;
My sins have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see.
They are more numerous than the hairs of my head,
And my heart has failed me.

13

Be pleased, O Lord, to save me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

14

Let those be ashamed and humiliated together
Who seek my life to destroy it;
Let those be turned back [in defeat] and dishonored
Who delight in my hurt.

15

Let those be appalled *and* desolate because of their shame
Who say to me, “Aha, aha [rejoicing in my misfortune]!”

16

Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
Let those who love Your salvation say continually,
“The Lord be magnified!”

17

Even though I am afflicted and needy,
Still the Lord takes thought *and* is mindful of me.
You are my help and my rescuer.
O my God, do not delay.

Psalm 41: Full Description, Important Verses, and Spiritual Influence

Overview:

Psalm 41 is attributed to David and is a deeply personal psalm expressing his lament, faith, and hope in the midst of illness, betrayal, and suffering. It emphasizes the themes of God’s mercy, justice, and care for the poor and afflicted. David calls on God for deliverance while reflecting on the treachery of those who have turned against him. The psalm concludes with a declaration of confidence in God's ultimate justice and protection.

Detailed Explanation of Psalm 41

1-3: Blessing for those who help the poor

- **Verse 1:** "Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him."
- **Verse 2:** "The Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies."
- **Verse 3:** "The Lord sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health."

In the opening verses, David declares the blessings upon those who care for the poor and needy. The first verse sets the tone, highlighting God's favor and deliverance upon those who are compassionate toward the disadvantaged. The promise is clear: God will protect, sustain, and restore such people in their time of need. This highlights God's justice and His concern for the vulnerable.

4-8: David's Lament and the Betrayal of Friends

- **Verse 4:** "As for me, I said, 'O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you.'"
- **Verse 5:** "My enemies say of me in malice, 'When will he die, and his name perish?'"
- **Verse 6:** "And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad."
- **Verse 7:** "All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me."
- **Verse 8:** "They say, 'A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.'"

David moves from the blessing of helping the poor to his own dire situation. He admits his need for God's mercy and healing, acknowledging his own sin. In the following verses, David expresses his sorrow over the betrayal and hostility he faces from his enemies, even from those who were once close to him. These verses underscore the pain of not just physical illness, but the emotional anguish of betrayal by trusted friends. The conspiratorial whispers of his enemies reflect the vulnerability and isolation David feels.

9: The Betrayal of a Close Friend

- **Verse 9:** "Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me."

This verse is poignant and echoes the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, who was one of Jesus' inner circle of friends (John 13:18). David expresses the deep pain of having been betrayed by a close companion, one whom he trusted deeply. This verse highlights the emotional depth of betrayal and serves as a prophetic picture of Christ's own experience with betrayal.

10-13: Prayer for Healing and Deliverance

- **Verse 10:** "But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!"
- **Verse 11:** "By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me."
- **Verse 12:** "But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever."
- **Verse 13:** "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen."

David calls upon God for mercy and healing, confident that God will lift him up and allow him to triumph over his enemies. In verse 11, David knows that God's favor will ensure that his enemies will not have the final victory. In verse 12, he reflects on the righteousness that God has sustained in him, and he closes the psalm with a doxology—praising God for His eternal greatness and faithfulness.

Important Verses

- **Verse 1:** "Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him." This verse sets the tone for the psalm, emphasizing God's favor toward those who care for the poor and the assurance that such people will be helped in times of trouble. It speaks to God's justice and compassion toward the vulnerable.
- **Verse 9:** "Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me." This verse poignantly captures the depth of betrayal by a trusted companion, echoing the experience of Jesus' betrayal. It speaks to the pain of being forsaken by those closest to us.
- **Verse 10:** "But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!" This is a cry for divine mercy and healing, and a plea for restoration. It expresses faith in God's power to heal and deliver, even in the face of betrayal and suffering.
- **Verse 13:** "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen." This closing doxology celebrates God's eternal greatness, affirming His power, authority, and trustworthiness. It underscores the centrality of worship and praise in the midst of personal suffering and adversity.

Spiritual Influence and Lessons

1. **God's Care for the Poor and Vulnerable:**
Psalm 41 opens with a powerful reminder of God's blessing on those who show compassion to the poor. It emphasizes that God rewards those who act justly, and that caring for others, particularly the marginalized, is in alignment with God's heart. This reinforces the Christian duty to serve others, especially the needy, as an essential part of faith.
2. **The Reality of Suffering and Betrayal:**
The psalm does not shy away from the reality of personal pain, illness, and betrayal. David's experience of betrayal by close friends (verse 9) speaks to the universal human experience of feeling forsaken and abandoned. For believers, this psalm offers comfort in knowing that God understands our suffering and is present in our trials. Moreover, it points to the ultimate betrayal of Jesus by one of His own disciples, making it a deeply prophetic psalm that resonates with the Passion of Christ.
3. **The Importance of Repentance and Prayer:**
David acknowledges his sin and asks for God's mercy and healing (verse 4). This teaches the importance of repentance, not only when facing illness or suffering but as a continual attitude in our walk with God. Prayer, especially when facing hardship, is vital for maintaining a relationship with God and seeking His intervention.
4. **Trust in God's Deliverance:**
David's confidence that God will ultimately deliver him (verses 10-12) is a testament to the

power of trusting in God's faithfulness. In times of trial, believers are encouraged to remember that God is sovereign, and He will work on behalf of those who trust Him. This is an encouragement to persevere in faith, even when circumstances are bleak.

5. **Eternal Perspective and Worship:**

The final verses (verse 13) highlight the importance of worshiping God in all circumstances. Even in the midst of personal suffering, David concludes by praising God, acknowledging His eternal goodness. This perspective encourages believers to focus on the eternal nature of God and to keep worship central in their lives, especially during difficult times.

Conclusion

Psalm 41 offers profound insights into the themes of mercy, justice, betrayal, and divine deliverance. Through David's personal experience, we see the intersection of human suffering and God's unwavering faithfulness. The psalm challenges believers to care for the poor, trust in God's justice, and remain faithful in times of personal trial. It also invites us to praise God for His eternal greatness, even when circumstances seem overwhelming. As a prayer of lament and hope, Psalm 41 encourages a life of humility, dependence on God, and unwavering trust in His promises.