

Psalm 39

Psalms 39:1-3 [New King James] *“Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, while the wicked are before me. I was mute with silence, I held my peace even from good; and my sorrow was stirred up. My heart was hot within me; while I was musing, the fire burned. Then I spoke with my tongue:”*

This pent-up “*protest*” would be too strong a word, implied defiance and disloyalty if David had vented them in the wrong company, [verse 1].

Remember, David certainly had reason to complain.

David was the anointed King of Israel, God’s own choice to replace the failed King Saul, [1 Samuel 13:13 to 1 Samuel 16:14], but he had to wait many years before taking the throne.

Then one of his sons tried to kill him and become king instead, [2 Samuel 16:15 to 2 Samuel 18:18].

But when David could **not** keep silent any longer, he took his complaints directly to the Creator God personally.

We all have situations that we feel are unfair, but complaining to other people will cause them to think that the Creator God cannot take care of us, or that we blame God for our troubles, so we should always take our complaints directly to God, then accept His answer to our prayers.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 [New King James] *“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

This is a fine example for us to follow. Paul certainly had many things he could complain about, [2 Corinthians 11:24-29].

Psalms 39:4-6 [New King James] *“LORD, make me to know my end, and what is the measure of my days, that I may know how frail I am. Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and my age is as nothing before You; certainly every man at his best state is but vapour. Selah. Surely every man walks about like a shadow; surely they busy themselves in vain; he heaps up riches, and does not know who will gather them.”*

Life is short no matter how long we live. If there is something important we need to do, we must not put it off for a better day, which may never come.

The brevity of life is a theme throughout the “*wisdom*” books in God’s Word, the Christian Bible, [Job, Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes].

Jesus Christ also spoke about this shortness of life.

Luke 12:16-21 [New King James] *“Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?” So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him,*

“Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

It is ironic that people spend so much time securing their short lives as physical human beings that they then spend little thought as to where they will spend eternity after their physical death!

Notice the word “*Selah*” is added to the general text of this Psalm, showing how important the message it brings is to all human beings.

“*Selah*” is from the root Hebrew word “*câlâh*” meaning to weigh what we have just received in order to understand and value its importance.

Ecclesiastes 2:17-26 [New King James] *“Therefore I hated life because the work that was done under the sun was distressing to me, for all is vanity and grasping for the wind. Then I hated all my labour in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labour in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labour in which I had toiled under the sun. For there is a man whose labour is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not laboured for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. For what has man for all his labour, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun? For all his days are sorrowful, and his work burdensome; even in the night his heart takes no rest. This also is vanity. Nothing is better for a man than that he should eat and drink, and that his soul should enjoy good in his labour. This also, I saw, was from the hand of God. For who can eat, or who can have enjoyment, more than I? For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to the sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that he may give to him who is good before God. This also is vanity and grasping for the wind.”*

Solomon knew what he should change in his life but was so immersed in his wealth, work and women that he failed to make the changes.

James 4:13-17 [New King James] *“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”*

It is good to have goals in our life but if we leave God out of them they will disappoint us.

There is no use making plans as though the Creator God does not exist, because the future of every human being after their physical death is in His hands.

Put the Creator God’s plans for all humanity in the centre of our planning.

If we do this He will never disappoint us and we will **not** see life as Solomon did as it drew to an end.

Note James tells us that not doing what we know to be right is as much a sin in God’s eyes as actually committing any transgression according to the principles that God has given us in His Commandments.

For example –

It is a sin to lie but also a sin to know the truth and not tell it.

It is a sin to speak evil of a person, but it is also a sin to avoid them when we know that they need support and friendship.

We should be willing to lay down our lives for others to benefit from as the Holy Spirit guides us.

If God has directed you to do a kind act, render a service, or restore a relationship, do it. Such action will renew and refresh your Christian faith.

Psalms 39:12-13 [New King James] *“Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; do not be silent at my tears; for I am a stranger with You, a sojourner, as all my fathers were. Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength, before I go away and am no more.”*

This is the key, realise we are but a sojourner in life!