

Psalm 41

Psalms 41:1-3 [New King James] *“Blessed is he who considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; you will not deliver him to the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; you will sustain him on his sickbed.”*

The Word of God, the Christian Bible, often speaks of God’s care for the weak, poor and needy, and His blessing on those people who share in this concern.

The Creator God wants our generosity to reflect His own free giving.

The Hebrew word translated “poor” is “dal” from a root word “dālal” which means to be oppressed, emptied, dangling like a bucket drawing water from a well, totally dependent on other people doing something to help.

So what is involved in this scripture is not just perfunctory help on one occasion but careful thought about the whole life situation, help must include physical, mental and spiritual concern.

Psalms 41:4-10 [New King James] *“I said, ‘LORD, be merciful to me; heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.’ My enemies speak evil of me: ‘When will he die, and his name perish?’ And if he comes to see me, he speaks lies; His heart gathers iniquity to itself; when he goes out, he tells it. All who hate me whisper together against me; against me they devise my hurt. ‘An evil disease,’ they say, ‘clings to him. And now that he lies down, he will rise up no more.’ Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them.”*

David’s personal position is all the weaker for his bad conscience, [verse 4].

David is surrounded by gloating, eagerly speculating visitors who are impatient for his death and his line to become extinct, [verses 5-8].

Even David’s close friend whom he trusted has turned his back on David, [verse 9]. This verse is viewed in the New Testament as a prophecy of Jesus Christ’s betrayal by Judas, one of His disciples, [John 13:18].

David expected far more from the Creator God than he had received from even his closest friend, [verse 10]. This is linked with David’s plea for help that began in verse 4.

Psalms 41:11-12 [New King James] *“By this I know that You are well pleased with me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, and set me before Your face forever.”*

David knew his imperfections well enough, not imagining himself always in the right, his meekness towards Shimei made this very plain, [2 Samuel 16:5-13].

Notice David’s ultimate ambition was to be in the Creator God’s presence forever.

The Psalms are divided into five books and each book ends with a doxology or an expression of praise to the Creator God.

The first book is **Psalms 1-41**, takes us through a journey of suffering, sorrow and great joy. It teaches us much about God’s eternal love and care for us and how we should trust Him even in our day-to-day experiences of life.

Psalms 41:13 [New King James] *“Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.”*

This Psalm ends with this outburst of praise to the Creator God, the “*Amen*” cries out of God’s faithfulness and sure support being absolutely true and trustworthy.

This is the conclusion that the Psalms are aiming to confirm as we meditate on them.