

Sunday Night Message

September 29, 2013

Psalm 41

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 41

Introduction

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David."

It is believed that the historical setting of this psalm involves the rebellion of Absalom. In 2 Samuel 15:1 – 6, it seems that something is keeping David from performing his duties as the king. It could be that David was out of commission due to an illness (v. 3 & v. 8). Absalom used this as an opportunity to lead the nation away from him.

In this Psalm, we see a man who lives his life submissive to the will of God; and because he lives his life in obedience to God, he acquires enemies; but because he is God's man, in the end, he receives deliverance from his enemies.

I Promises to Those Who Consider The Poor (vs. 1 – 3)

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble." (Psalms 41:1)

Considereth – means to be wise; to ponder; to carefully consider; to act wisely

God has a lot of promises to those who are liberal in their giving:

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38)

"The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies." (Psalms 41:2)

"The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness." (Psalms 41:3)

"I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee." (Psalms 41:4)

David believed that this disease was a result of his sin. It appears that David was appealing to the Lord for mercy based upon the fact that he had been merciful to others.

"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." (Matthew 5:7)

David's appeal was based upon the promises of God. David had confessed his sin unto God, and was now claiming the mercy that God promised to those who were merciful.

God says that if we confess our sin, he will forgive it. (1 John 1:9) We must confess our sin in order for God to answer our prayers:

"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:" (Psalms 66:18)

II Persecution From Enemies and "Friends" Alike (vs. 5 - 9)

"Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish?"
(Psalms 41:5)

"And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity: his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it." (Psalms 41:6)

"All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt." (Psalms 41:7)

"An evil disease, say they, cleaveth fast unto him: and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more." (Psalms 41:8)

"Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." (Psalms 41:9)

The familiar friend referred to here may have been Ahithophel who was David's counselor, but he turned against him and sided with Absalom (2 Samuel 16:15) Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather (2 Samuel 11:3 &

23:34), and secretly hated David for what he did to Bathsheba, and her husband Uriah.

Satan certainly wanted Absalom to get the victory over David, because Absalom had no sons, and a victory for him would mean the end of the Davidic dynasty. God said that a son of David would sit on the throne forever (2 Samuel 7:11 – 16), having the ultimate fulfillment in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Luke 1:31 – 33)

This verse has Messianic implications as it was quoted by the Lord Jesus regarding Judas. (Also see Psalm 55:12 – 14) Notice the “whom I trusted” was not included in the quote by Jesus, because Jesus knew that Judas was a traitor:

"I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me." (John 13:18)

Judas, like Absalom pretended to be a friend to the poor. (John 12:4 – 6)

III Prayers and Praises For God's Deliverance (vs. 10 – 13)

"But thou, O LORD, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them." (Psalms 41:10)

"By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me." (Psalms 41:11)

"And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever." (Psalms 41:12)

"Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen." (Psalms 41:13)