

Thankful...2020?

Psalm 40:1-5

Sermon Outline

A. He Listens (vs. 1):

1. I wait patiently – While steadfastly enduring, we must learn to eagerly expect the Lord to do what He said He will do.
 - a) The emphasis of this phrase is not really on patience, but on the fact that David waited solely on the Lord. The verb “to wait” expresses a confident trust or faith in the Lord (130:5). David knows that salvation comes only from the Almighty (3:8). The words He inclined to me present the image of the Creator of the universe, the King of heaven, stooping from His throne to save the helpless.^{1[1]}
2. I patiently wait – The Lord is mighty and has all authority to do what He promises to do for those who trust in Him. We can confidently expect the Lord to decisively act in our favor.
3. Incline to me – Despite how contrary things may seem, the Lord engages in our prayers because He is committed to maintain His covenant with us (Psalm 34:7-9; Matthew 28:20; Romans 8:31; Hebrews 8:1-2).
 - a) *He inclined* is similar to “he inclined his ear” (see 17:6 and comments) and means “he listened, he paid attention to.” SPCL, however, “He bent down to hear my cries”—which the translator may choose to follow.^{2[2]}
4. Do not turn – No matter how busy the Lord may be, our urgent prayers continuously gain His attention so that He is completely focused on planning a ‘course of action towards us’.
5. Heard – The Lord, without ever providing any limitations on how much prayer He would hear, endlessly offers His undivided attention to comprehensively come to a full understanding of what the prayer is all about (Romans 8:26-28).
6. Cry; Call – The word cry signifies an intense passionate hollering to the Lord in an effort to gain His attention and deliverance.

B. The Lord Fights for Us (vs. 2):

^{1[1]} Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (p. 675). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

^{2[2]} Bratcher, R. G., & Reyburn, W. D. (1991). *A translator's handbook on the book of Psalms* (p. 381). New York: United Bible Societies.

1. He brought me up; offering – The distressful pain of the Psalmist took him to a low place. He now explains that the Lord continuously took him on a journey to a better place emotionally.
 - a) It is probable *the desolate pit* and *the miry bog* are metaphors for Sheol, the world of the dead; either because of illness or because of some other dangerous situation, the psalmist was near death, from which Yahweh rescued him, setting his *feet upon a rock* and making his *steps secure*, that is, giving him health and safety. A similar description of deliverance from imminent death is found in 30:3.^{3[3]}

2. The pit of destruction – The pit here is not just a hole in the ground. It is being in a pit where there is a loud noise created by rushing water that is constantly crushing against David. Death is imminent if David is not rescued.
 - a) Horrible pit: David writes this poem during a period of terrible stress; he feels like he is stuck in a pit or swamp. No matter how hard he tries, he cannot get out, but David turns his frustration over to the Lord and trusts in His strength. A new song: The Lord's salvation prompts David to praise God. The music is new because God's salvation is fresh and new to David.^{4[4]}
 - b) The figures for deep distress are illustrated in Jeremiah's history (Je 38:6–12). Patience and trust manifested in distress, deliverance in answer to prayer, and the blessed effect of it in eliciting praise from God's true worshippers, teach us that Christ's suffering is our example, and His deliverance our encouragement (Heb 5:7, 8; 12:3; 1 Pe 4:12–16).^{5[5]}

3. He set my feet: To establish – How the Lord rescued David is like constructing a well-developed building on a solid foundation. He took David from destruction and put in a place of strength. God did not just rescue David He established him so that no one can ever put him back in the pit.
 - a) Hitzig derives from the mention of pit, his explanation of the Psalm from the history of Jeremiah, but even he does not take the *rock*, which is the usual figure of security (Pss. 18:2; 27:5), in a literal sense, his grounds are weak; and the pit with its mire, in which the foot slides and can gain no firm foothold is figurative of danger, as the waters elsewhere (Ps. 18:15 and frequently).

4. My footsteps firm; Established; Faithful – It is all the work of God that took David from certain destruction an 'incontrovertible existence'. In other words, it made David firmly anchored after being rescued from destruction.

C. He Puts My Praise ON (vs. 3):

1. He put – The Lord generously activated in David's heart a new song so that David can write about his experiences.

^{3[3]} Bratcher, R. G., & Reyburn, W. D. (1991). *A translator's handbook on the book of Psalms* (p. 381). New York: United Bible Societies.

^{4[4]} Radmacher, E. D., Allen, R. B., & House, H. W. (1999). *Nelson's new illustrated Bible commentary* (p. 675). Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers.

^{5[5]} Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., & Brown, D. (1997). *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible* (Vol. 1, p. 359). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

2. Praise to our God – The song that was placed in David’s heart was a song that publicly declares with joyful expressions God’s glory. It provides God adoration as it describes who God is and thanksgiving as it declares all God has done.
3. Many will see – Many people will come to such a clear understanding it would be as though they are seeing through their own eyes.
4. Trust - All that the Lord has done has caused David to continuously have confident hope in the Lord which lead to the removal of all his anxiety.
5. Trust - When the Lord firmly established David from the pit of destruction it taught him to completely rely upon the Lord because He is always in control.
6. Lord – David moves from God to Lord because it is God who reigns supreme, but it is the Lord who executes the covenant relationship God has with His people.

D. The Lord Blesses (vs. 4):

1. How blessed is the man – The Lord causes a heightened state of happiness to the one who trusts in Him so that person is at the point of bliss and prosperity.
2. Who has made the Lord his trust; Put – To make the Lord one’s trust is to decide to rely on the Lord to restore life and vitality to a person’s daily existence so that they can enjoy life to the fullest. This takes place because the person has a strong sense of confidence in the ability of the Lord to free them from danger and provide them rest and safety.
3. Has not turned to the proud – This person is blessed because they did not allow their circumstances to cause them to go away from God to those who are arrogant and display an attitude of independence from God.
 - a) If the term here is to be understood as “arrogant men,” it can sometimes be translated as “men who think they are very important” or, idiomatically, “people who have swollen hearts.” In languages which do not use relative clauses, such as those with *who* in RSV and TEV, translators may recast verse 4 to say, for example,^{6[6]}
4. Those who lapse into falsehood – The person who is blessed does not rely on people who are committed to conceive lies or is deceptive.

E. The Lord is Always at Work (vs. 5):

1. Oh Lord my God – David when providing adoration to the Lord expresses the nature of the Lord God. The Lord is might, power, has all authority and is committed to His relationship with Israel. God is supreme and is sovereign over everything and reigns over everything.
2. Wondrous works; Difficult – What God has done is beyond human ability and clearly demonstrate God’s capability to do amazing things.

^{6[6]} Bratcher, R. G., & Reyburn, W. D. (1991). *A translator’s handbook on the book of Psalms* (p. 382). New York: United Bible Societies.

3. Which you have done, act – God with His powerful ability to create anything from nothing has already acted and has completed, with a sense of ethical obligation, all that needs to be fashioned together so that He can do wonders.
4. Your thoughts towards us – God’s way is inventing ideas, making judgments, planning, mediating and devising plans are many and are way beyond our ability.
5. There is none to compare – How God arranges or sets in order all that he is going to do is beyond any person’s ability.
6. Declare and speak to them; Tell – If David were to try to verbally communicate a clear explanation that reveals all that the Lord God has done it would be impossible because God’s wonders are continuously too numerous.
7. Numerous; Tell – All the Lord’s activities are intense facts that are too many to list.