

Evening Sermon Outline – October 27, 2019

“Praying from the Pit” Psalm 40

What is the pit?

1. A literal, physical pit?
2. A pit like circumstance?
3. A spiritual / moral pit caused by sin?
4. All of the above combination?
5. A place where you are HELPLESS to help yourself!

How do we get out of our pit?

I. Only God can bring us up and out –

NKJ Psalm 40:1 <To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry. (Psalm 40:1 NKJ)

1. Joseph’s pit –

A. It was a pit that would not sustain life -

Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was no water in it. Genesis 37:24

B. It was a pit Joseph pleaded with his brothers about -

Then they said to one another, “We are truly guilty concerning our brother, for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us, and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us.” Genesis 42:21

2. David’s spiritual / moral allowed for no escape, no motion, only Prayer... crying prayer –

By nature / depravity / we are all in such a pit, this is why Jesus says – “Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Matthew 5:3-4

II. God brings us up and out and starts us moving about -

He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. (Psalm 40:2 NKJ) Have you ever felt yourself to be in a place of instability, a place with no firm place to stand? Only God can provide rescue and solid footing!

1. Jesus provides the stable rock in His teaching –

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” Matthew 7:24-27

2. Guidance for our “established” steps is also from God’s Word – Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

III. God even gives us “New Songs” –

He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD. (Psalm 40:3)

1. For us these new songs are because of Christ & His work on the cross –

And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, Revelation 5:9

2. New songs flow from new life –

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

3. New songs flow from faith -

Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. (Psalm 40:4 NKJ)

4. Faith is a trust and obey type faith -

What is said in Psalm 40:4 is similar to what was said in Psalm 1, note the trust is the LORD, not the proud! Psalm 1 its God's Word vs the counsel of the ungodly ----

Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:1-6 NKJ)

5. God's works are "many" all of them song worthy

Many, O LORD my God, are Your wonderful works Which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered. (Psalm 40:5 NKJ)

Praise God in song for:

A. His works –

24 O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions-- (Psalm 104:24)

B. His thoughts –

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jeremiah 29:11 NKJ)

6. Praise Him with an obedient life

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart (Psalm 40:6-8a NKJ)

7. Praise Him by proclaiming the Good News –

9 I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. 10 I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly. (Psalm 40:9-10 NKJ)

1. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the ultimate "good news."

2. Not restrained, not hidden, not concealed, loudly revealed!

IV. Praise Him, while you depend on His grace –

Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me. 12 For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me. 13 Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me! (Psalm 40:11-13 NKJ)

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (John 1:16 NKJ)

16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. (John 1:16 NIV)

16 For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace. (John 1:16 NAS)

V. Pray as the godly in the midst of enemy territory –

Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who seek to destroy my life; Let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor Who wish me evil. Let them be confounded because of their shame, Who say to me, "Aha, aha!" Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; Yet the LORD thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.
Psalm 40:14-17

1. Ultimately, the "ashamed" and "confusion" prayer applies to the enemies of Christ and His people – John 15:18-25

2. Loving God's salvation...

3. Poor and needy, but God is my Help & Deliverer!

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