

Series: Psalms
Title: Let Thy Mercies Come
Text: Ps 119: 41-48
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Psalm 119: 41: VAU. Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, *even* thy salvation, according to thy word. 42: So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word. 43: And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. 44: So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. 45: And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. 46: I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. 47: And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. 48: My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

Each section of this Psalm is David's prayer at various times in his life. We do not know what exactly the circumstance were. That is partly so we can see Christ and apply these things to our Lord Jesus. But in every section, David is totally dependent upon the Lord to save him. This Psalm is full of the most practical teaching we can ever receive. It will not appear practical to men who merely listen for key words when the gospel is preached. Some cannot hear the admonition to good works unless we say do this, don't do that. When God's preacher declares the gospel he preaches good works every message. But it takes the Spirit of God to make a sinner hear and obey. Let's see what we can learn we are to do in this Psalm.

PLEAD FOR THE LORD'S MERCIES

Psalm 119: 41: VAU. Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, *even* thy salvation, according to thy word.

In addition to asking the LORD to teach him, to give him understanding, to make him willing, to save him from himself, to stablish his word, to save him from men, and to quicken him in Christ his Righteousness--he now asks for mercies.

In eternity, God had mercy on whom he would have mercy. Salvation is by the mercy of God given to whom he is pleased. By God's covenant word of grace, through his written word, God promises mercies to those he everlastingly loved. The love of God works by mercy. The love of God chose his people in Christ. All God's mercies toward us are in Christ and for Christ's sake.

Ephesians 1: 1: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2: Grace *be* to you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ. 3: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: 4: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6: To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

When we fell in Adam, God's love moved him to be merciful. In great mercy God the Father sent the gospel to us and quickened us together with Christ. God, "who is rich in mercy, for the great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (Eph 2: 4-5). God's mercies are free in Christ for Christ's sake. The mercy of God presupposes our unworthiness due to our sin, our weaknesses, our fears and unbelief. As a sanctified child of God, David knew he yet needed God's mercies.

Psalm 40:11: Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

God's child does not see ourselves deserving of any of God's mercies. Mercies would not be mercies if we were worthy of God's mercies. Jacob said,

Genesis 32: 10: I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant;

We pray for God's mercies personally. David did so throughout his life.

Psalm 6: 1: O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. 2: Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I *am* weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed. 3: My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long? 4: Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

Psalm 25: 6: Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy lovingkindnesses; for they *have been* ever of old. [from everlasting to everlasting] 7: Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to thy mercy remember thou me for thy goodness' sake, O LORD.

God's mercies are many. and aren't we thankful they are.

Psalm 51:1 «To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.» Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

It is always better to cast yourself on God's mercies. When David sinned in numbering the people, God smote him in his heart and sent the prophet Gad. Through Gad, God gave David three options and told him to choose one: either seven years of famine or flee 3 months from enemies, while they pursue thee or three days' pestilence in David's land.

2 Samuel 24: 14: And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies *are* great: and let me not fall into the hand of man.

But notice, when David pleads for mercies, David has someone specific in mind. He says, verse 41: "*Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even THY SALVATION, according to thy word.*" God's salvation is Christ Jesus. Simeon declared that. He took the Lord Jesus in his arms when they brought Christ into the temple as a babe and Simeon prayed to God,

Luke 2: 28: Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29: Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30: For mine eyes have seen thy Salvation, 31: Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32: A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

All God's mercies are in his Son and it was by God's mercies that he sent his only begotten Son. "Through the tender mercy of our God,...the dayspring from on high hath visited us," Luke 1:78 David prays, "*Let thy mercies come also unto, O LORD, even Christ thy Salvation, according to thy word.*" David pleads for Christ to come and quicken him in mercy. He asks for God to be merciful to him for Christ's sake.

Brethren God saves by a multitude of tender mercies: calling mercy, regenerating mercy, converting mercy, justifying mercy, pardoning mercy, sanctifying mercy. Our complete salvation from the womb to glory is by God's mercies in Christ his Salvation. Someone wrote, "Salvation is an aggregate of mercies incalculable in number, priceless in value, incessant in application, eternal in endurance."

Notice, David pleads God's own covenant promise--"*according to thy word.*" God's word is Christ the Word. It is also his written word. God's word is full of God's covenant promises of mercy to his elect. Throughout this Psalm David asks the Lord's mercies. God made his everlasting covenant of grace in Christ to David. As I read Psalm 89, hear God the Father's covenant to his Son, our true David.

Psalm 89: 24...my faithfulness and my mercy *shall be* with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. 25: I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. 26: He shall cry unto me, Thou *art* my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. 27: Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. 28: My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. 29: His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

So David prays for God's mercies in Christ according to God's promise.

Psalm 119:58: I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word....76: Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. 77: Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law [thy word] is my delight....132: Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name.

God's everlasting covenant promises to David and to all his people *are yes and amen in Christ*. So we ask God to show us mercies. We ask him to do so by Christ Jesus his Salvation. We ask him to save us according to his word which promises us mercy for Christ's sake. Always ask God for mercy. Never approach God based on something you have done. Plead with God to be merciful to you for the sake of his Son.

WHY DO WE NEED MERCY?

Psalm 119: 42: So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

Let's remember the Psalms are Christ's word. The reason David and all God's children can be assured that Christ will save us is because our Lord Jesus walked where we walk. This Psalm is the prayer of our Redeemer first and foremost. The Lord Jesus fulfilled the law in perfection. Christ could say in perfect faithfulness--*verse 44: So shall I keep thy law continually forever and ever.*

He kept the law for his people. Christ obeyed the law in perfection, without sin in the womb. He came forth, not speaking lies, but being the delight of God his Father. He kept God's law continually forever and ever and he did it for his people.

Christ Jesus spoke God's word before kings--*verse 46: I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.* Due to his sinless perfect righteousness, the Lord Jesus suffered reproach as he suffered in place of his people..

Psalm 69: 7: Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. 8: I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children. 9: For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Matthew 27:40: And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41: Likewise also the chief priests mocking *him*, with the scribes and elders, said, 42: He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43: He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God....63: Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

But we see our Savior's perfect faith in this Psalm. We see Christ's prayer when he was reviled and reproached by men. David was a sinner. So is each one Christ saves. But the Lord Jesus knew no sin.

1 Peter 2: 23: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed *himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

Our Savior fulfilled the law of God. Hearing Christ speak in this Psalm--beholding the spirit of the true Psalmist--we see an example of how Christ fulfilled the law for his people. He depended upon the Father to give the word to him to answer those that reproached him. And the word God gave him to speak was silence. "*He opened not his mouth*" (Is 53: 7).

When we see David and others as a type of Christ, remember, the Lord Jesus directed their hearts, to show us a picture of what Christ did for us. This was probably David's prayer as Shimei was throwing stones at him and reproaching him all the way up the mount. What a type of Christ! David crossed over the brook Kedron and went up the Mount of Olives--so did Christ. David bore reproach for his sin--Psalm 3: 2 says, "Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah."--but our Savior bore that same reproach as he bore David's sin and the sin of all his elect. Our Savior drew David to pray this word in our Psalm--David commits his cause to the LORD--he did the same in Psalm 3: 3, "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." Christ worked that in David to picture Christ committing his cause to the Father on the cross.

Then the Lord gave David a word concerning his reproach. As Shimei cursed him, David said to his men, "Let him reproach." That was to picture Christ who answered not but committed it to God his Father. David had plenty of sin mixed with what he did. That is why he asked for God's mercies. But Christ worked that in David to show us a picture of what Christ accomplished on our behalf in perfect righteousness. So the answer to those who reproach you is silence. Go to Christ and beg for mercy. Trust Christ to deal with all our enemies.

CONTINUAL PROVISION BY CHRIST

Psalm 119: 43: And take not the word of truth [the gospel of Christ the Truth] utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. 44: So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. 45: And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. 46: I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. 47: And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. 48: My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

The Lord Jesus continues to draw us to pour out our heart to him for mercy and grace to help in time of need. He did this the first hour he called us. He continues to turn us to him all our days.

He made us behold, and keeps us beholding, that by God our Father sending his mercies to us, "*even Thy Salvation*"--Christ Jesus, our Savior fulfilled the law for his people. He has removed our sin as far as the east is from the west. God showed us mercy for Christ's sake. He still showers us in his tender mercies. This is how and why we say in *verse 42...we trust in thy word*. We trust in both the written word and the essential Word, Christ Jesus, himself.

In mercy to us, God promises he will never take the gospel out of our mouth. So we ask him, "*Take not the word of truth [the gospel of Christ the Truth] utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.*" God has put the gospel in our heart and our mouth. We may suffer darkness. But God shall never take it utterly out of our mouth. We hope in God's judgments. He has declared his judgments in our hearts. It was God's judgment to elect a people by his grace in Christ. It was God's judgment to trust his Son to save his people from our sins. It was God's judgment to make Christ sin in place of his people and redeem us from the curse. God has taught us his judgment and brought us to hope in his judgments in Christ. Christ cried, "it is finished"; God has persuaded us by the Spirit that our judgment was settled at Calvary. So God has brought us to hope in God's judgments that he will lead and guide and keep us unto the end. Whatever he does is right and we trust him. He is all our hope.

By the Lord's continual mercies to us in Christ our Salvation, by his grace working in our heart, we obey the gospel, "*So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.*" God's gospel command to his child is this:

1 John 3: 23: And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

There is no liberty like knowing Christ has freed us from the curse of the law and from our sin-nature. Liberty is knowing that Christ shall keep us under his grace and not let us fall away. Liberty is God giving us hearts to follow him. We walk as his freemen at liberty believing our Lord Jesus is our Salvation.

By his grace and continual mercies, we speak the gospel before kings, *"I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed."* I am speaking his testimonies before kings right now. I speak before you who he made king priests by his precious blood. We also speak before men of this world who hated God, thinking they are kings.

By his continual mercies, we delight to serve him. We delight to serve one another for the sake of our Redeemer, *"And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved."*

We lift up only Christ our Shield before God, Christ is our only Righteousness who kept all God's commandments on our behalf. So we lift up our hands unto God's commandments, or as God commands us, meditating in God's statutes, *"My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes."* We see in God's statutes what Christ accomplished for us. We see our sin. By God's grace, we are constrained to obey God as the Spirit of God enable us. Though we know we can never come to God by our obedience to the law, we delight in the law of God in the inward man. It shows us Christ our Righteousness.

Robert Hawker said, "As we behold the Lord Jesus delighting himself in his Father's law, fulfilling and obeying it for us and for our salvation, we delight to come before his throne seeking acceptance only in the Beloved! Hence the whole church is represented as crying out, with uplifted hands, to Jehovah." Lifting up Christ our Shield before God our Father, we cry as the psalmist did in

Psalm 84: 9: Behold, O God, our shield (behold, O God, Christ our Shield) and look upon the face of thine anointed.
10: For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Amen!