

HIGH CALLING AND HUMBLE CONDITION

Psalm 38

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INTRODUCTION

Christians are called to a high standard, but in this life we must deal with our humble condition.

In Psalm 38, David is obviously speaking as a “righteous person.”

Verse 15: “I hope in You, O Lord...O Lord my God.”

Verse 20: “I follow what is good.”

Verses 1-2, 21-22: David calls on the Lord which is the opposite of what the wicked do.

Psalm 14:1-7

In Psalm 38, David speaks as a sinner.

Verse 3: “because of my sin.”

Verse 4: “my iniquity.”

Verse 5: “my folly.”

Verse 16: “my foot has slipped.”

Verse 18: “my iniquity...my sin”

Psalm 38 begins with the inscription, “a memorial.”

In the Hebrew it reads:

1. David calls on God to remember His promises to David in spite of David’s sin.
2. David writes to remind himself that though he is righteous, he must never be self-righteous, but remember that he is susceptible to failure.

Memory plays a very important role in our relationship with God.

Genesis 9:14, 15

It shall come about, when I make a cloud appear over the earth, that the rainbow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh.

Leviticus 26:44, 45; Luke 1:72

But memory works on both sides of a relationship with God.

Joshua 4:6, 7

Ephesians 2:12

remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the people of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of the promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Romans 11:18

do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

? What should a righteous person remember when he sins? How does he respond to sin in his life?

We see three responses of the godly person to sin in himself.

I. HE CALLS TO GOD, VV. 1, 2

? What do you pray?

A. HE RECOGNIZES HIS OFFENSE IS AGAINST GOD

Psalms 51:4

Against You, You only, I have sinned
And done what is evil in Your sight,
So that You are justified when You speak
And blameless when You judge.

B. HE REALIZES HIS OPPRESSION IS FROM THE LORD

Psalm 14:4

Application:

II. HIS SIN WEIGHS HIM DOWN, VV. 3-10

A. HIS SIN IS A BURDEN, VV. 3, 4

B. HIS SIN MAKES HIM SICK, VV. 5-7

C. HIS SIN AGITATES HIS HEART, VV. 8-10, 18

Psalm 10:11, 14

Psalm 69:5

O God, it is You who knows my folly, And my wrongs are not hidden from You.

D. HE DOESN'T MAKE EXCUSES, VV. 13, 14

Application:

III. HE IS CONCERNED FOR HIS REPUTATION, VV. 11-19

A. HIS FRIENDS STAND ALOOF, V. 11

B. HIS ENEMIES TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIM

1. They Rejoice, vv. 12, 15, 16

2. They Are Strong, v. 19
3. They Are Many, v. 19
4. They Are Unjust In Their Assessment, v. 19
5. They Oppose What Is Good, vv. 19, 20

Application:

IV. HE PRAYS FOR MERCY, VV. 21, 22

- A. HE PLEADS WITH YAHWEH THAT HE NOT BE FORSAKEN
- B. HE DESIRES CLOSENESS WITH GOD.
- C. HE PLEADS WITH ADONAI FOR HASTY SALVATION

Application:

CONCLUSION: RIGHT RESPONSE TO SIN

The true child of God may boldly sin, but by his response, his true nature shines forth.

1. He doesn't wallow in his sin, but calls to God.
2. He is burdened by his sin.
3. He is concerned for his reputation.
4. He draws near to God.

1 Corinthians 11:32

But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.