

The God Who Helps
Psalm 40:1-10

INTRO:

Psalm 37 very famously counsels us to wait upon God. We must wait upon God not because God is slow. Rather it is because we are impulsive and are not prone to wait or to trust. We must wait, believing God's timing is perfect. **Psalm 38** and **39** describe the difficulty of waiting. Today, we will explore **Psalm 40** which is about our God who helps those who wait upon Him.

I. God Helps Those Who Wait (v. 1-10)

II. God Will Help Those Who Wait (v. 11-17)

I. God Helps Those Who Wait (v. 1-10)

A. David's personal experience (v.1-3)

"I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry. 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. 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."

David waited on God. He waited with expectation. He waited confident God would answer Him. And God answered. Although we will only get through the first ten verses, I will give you the outline of the whole Psalm. Lord Willing we will one day study the last seven verses.

1. We are not told much about what circumstances David was delivered from. He described it as a horrible pit. Bunyan put a "Slough of Despond" in his *Pilgrim's Progress* because we all at one time or another spend time there. In Bunyan's book the Slough is located before the wicket gate. However, like David, most of us can remember moments similar to this one when we have slipped into these kinds of difficulties and the LORD has gotten us out.

2. When God delivered him, David's response to God was a heart of praise to God for what He did. David will not keep quiet. God will be glorified in what David tells of what God has done.

B. David's Principle (v.4-5)

"Blessed is that man who makes the LORD his TRUST, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. 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."

1. David drew from his personal experience of God's faithfulness and deliverance a principle so everyone can rejoice and so he and we can draw on this reality when we find ourselves waiting upon God again.

2. This echoes a section in **Psalm 139:15-18** where we read:

"My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them. If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand; When I awake, I am still with You."

3. When we have to wait this should keep us trusting God. To not trust God is to blaspheme Him.

C. David Dedication (vs.6-8)

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. 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."

1. **Verses 6-8** describe David's commitment to being whom God wants him to be and living as God wants him to live. The first phrase gives us some pause. These are the Biblically prescribed sacrifices. Is David saying they are no longer important? NO. He is saying that in this instance, God wants his heart more than He desires his outward sacrifices.

2. The next phrase is difficult. It literally says, ***"My ears you have dug out."*** This could refer to the ceremony making a servant a permanent slave. However, it probably means God has opened his ears so he is always ready to hear God and obey Him.

3. This passage is cited in **Hebrews 10:4-7** in the New Testament. There the writer told us about our Savior.

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: 'Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me— To do Your will, O God.'"

The inspired writer to the Hebrews quoted from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. Here we learn that part of the reason for this Psalm was to foreshadow the incarnation of our Savior.

D. Finally, David Declared God's Glory Publically (vs.9-10)

"I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. 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."

1. We need to magnify the glory of God when we testify of His faithfulness and merciful love to us. Giving testimony in the testimony times at Church is important.
2. It is vital to give testimony of God's faithfulness in private also. We are talking here about in testimony to other saints and to those who do not know our God.

Hymn #43 ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness***