

September 25, 2011  
Evening Service  
"Crying for God's Mercy"  
Psalm 38

I. David's pleading for relief –

1. From God's wrath or MORE wrath-

<A Psalm of David. To bring to remembrance.> O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure! (Psalm 38:1 NKJ)

2. From current pains, described:

For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down. (Psalm 38:2 NKJ)

A. Sharpe pains

B. Heavy weighted pains

C. Both kind of pains are from God "Your ..."

II. While David recognizes God's sovereignty over his pains ... He rightly blames his own sin as the cause of his pains!

There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin.<sup>4</sup> For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. (Psalm 38:3-4 NKJ)

1. :3 recognizes the moral cause of sickness / pain and trials ... God's judgment of sin –
2. Sickness / pain is not always proportionate to relative sin yet always caused by sin –
3. David's sins were overwhelming, too heavy, he was downing in them!

III. David lists his many pains / difficulties with God honoring commentary and honesty –

My wounds are foul *and* festering Because of my foolishness.

- It's me, it's me, it's me O LORD standing in the NEED of PRAYER, not my brother, not my sister, but it's me O LORD, standing in the NEED of pray ---- David saw it was his own foolishness that caused God's chastisement to fall on him –

- Constant mourning -

<sup>6</sup> I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.

- Fever, no sound flesh -

<sup>7</sup> For my loins are full of inflammation, And there is no soundness in my flesh.

- Weakness, groaning, turmoil of the heart -

<sup>8</sup> I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.

- David's honesty, openness with God about his sin and pain -

<sup>9</sup> Lord, all my desire is before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You.

- A panting heart / Vision gone or weak

Two kinds of vision:

A. Physical

B. Spiritual

<sup>10</sup> My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.

- Friends gone -

<sup>11</sup> My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, And my relatives stand afar off.

- *Enemies coming like shark to blood -*

<sup>12</sup> **Those also who seek my life lay snares *for me*; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, And plan deception all the day long.**

- *David like a death mute with God, no spiritual hearing or voice -*

<sup>13</sup> **But I, like a deaf *man*, do not hear; And *I am* like a mute *who does not open his mouth*.** <sup>14</sup> **Thus I am like a man who does not hear, And in whose mouth *is* no response. (Psalm 38:5-14 NKJ)**

#### IV. *David's Hope - :15-20*

1. *God is David's Hope –*

**For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God.** <sup>16</sup> **For I said, "*Hear me*, lest they rejoice over me, Lest, when my foot slips, they exalt *themselves* against me." (Psalm 38:15-16 NKJ)**

2. *Though David cannot speak or hear - :13-14 He KNOWS GOD will HEAR ANYWAY!*

*It is not the power of our praying but God's ability to hear even weak, sometimes completely unspoken prayers that is our HOPE!*

3. *David's Hope was definitely NOT in himself –*

**For *I am* ready to fall, And my sorrow *is* continually before me. (Psalm 38:17 NKJ)**

- A. *He is quite ready for his own fall, this is his norm, he understands his SIN!*

- B. *Sadly, his sorrow is his norm as well –*

- C. *He will confess and be in anguish over this sin -*

**For I will declare my iniquity; I will be in anguish over my sin. (Psalm 38:18 NKJ)**

*D. He knows also, alone he is no match for his enemies –*

**But my enemies *are* vigorous, *and* they are strong; And those who hate me wrongfully have multiplied. (Psalm 38:19 NKJ)**

*They are:*

- (1) *Energetic / vigorous*
- (2) *Strong*
- (3) *Multiplied*

*E. He knows why his enemies are against him though too, not because of his sin but because he does good -*

**Those also who render evil for good, they are my adversaries, because I follow *what is* good. (Psalm 38:20 NKJ)**

4. *This also is why David has hope in God –*

**Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me!** <sup>22</sup> **Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! (Psalm 38:21-22 NKJ)**