

Sold Out To Do God's Will

Psalm 40

- Psalm 40 is similar to Psalm 27 in structure, composed of 2 distinct sections: 1) thanksgiving (vs. 1-10) and personal lament (vs. 11-17).
- Psalm 40:13-17 is basically identical to Psalm 70.
- The author of Hebrews in Hebrews 10:5-7 quotes Psalm 40:6-8, applying it to the life of the Lord Jesus. Indeed only the Lord Jesus could say with purity of heart and devotion what is stated in these verses.

2) Here then is a life sold out to do God's will. Here is the life God desires and rightly expects of us as well.

I. You must wait on the Lord with confidence 40:1-3

David is in a “horrible pit,” a “slimy pit” (*NIV*). What do we discover as we wait on God when trouble comes and life is the pits?

1) He will hear you when you call 40:1

- We must wait patiently. God has His timing.
- When we cry out: 1) He inclines (turns) to us and 2) hears our cry with an intent to answer.

2) He will help you when you are down 40:2

Here is the answer to the prayer of vs. 1.

- He brought him up out of a hopeless and desperate situation.
- He set his feet on a rock, a solid and secure foundation (cf. 2 Cor. 4:8-9).
- He established his steps.

3) He will honor you when you worship 40:3

- A new song in his mouth is a song of salvation, even vindication.
- But, note the startling evangelistic impulse: 1) many will see; 2) many will fear; and 3) many will trust in the Lord! John Piper says, “Our song is our evangelism.”

II. You must trust in the Lord with conviction 40:4-5

Standing on the rock of his salvation, David challenges and commands those who trust in the Lord when they are in the pit of despair.

1) Trust the Lord who is true to you 40:4

- The man of Psalm 1 appears once again.
- He will not respect, look to, or trust in the proud, those who foolishly trust in themselves rather than Jehovah.
- To trust in you rather than Christ is to make yourself into a god and to commit the sin of idolatry.

2) Trust the God who thinks of you 40:5

- “Many are the wonderful works which the Lord has done.
- Many are your thoughts (your purposes and plans).
- The past is full of His blessings, the present complete with His care, and the future abundant in His plans.

III. You must delight in the Lord with consecration 40:6-8

- Here is the heart of this psalm. Kidner says they “anticipate the Servant prophecies and the New Covenant.” The author of Hebrews, utilizing the

interpretive key of Luke 24:25-27, 44, sees these words realized in the Messiah-King, Jesus Christ.

- The words echo those of Samuel in his rebuke of Saul in 1 Sam. 15:22. The words also preview in summary fashion the career of Christ, and provide for us a pattern of radical devotion and consecration to the will of God in our lives.

- 1) Do not become consumed with externals 40:6
- God desires more than mere formalism and routine ritualism. He wants you, that to which sacrifice and offering should give witness (Note the ABA structures of v.6).
 - No, my ears You have opened (*NIV*, “pierced”). Hebrews 10:5, following the LXX, gives a paraphrase in terms of meaning, “A body you have prepared for me.” God has taken His servant as His own, opening his ears to hear with a view to obeying the will of the Lord (v.8). No Sunday only Christian here!

- 2) Know that what counts is internal 40:7-8
- Because the servant of the Lord is committed to the Lord, he can say simply and clearly, “Behold, I come;” (*NIV*, “Here I am”). I am Yours!
 - “In the scroll of the book it is written of me.” The Word of God, your Law, is my manual, my guide, the map of my life. (cf. Deut. 17:14-20).
 - The servant of the Lord has a 2-fold declaration, a motto for life!
 1. I delight to do your will, O my God.
 2. Your law is within my heart.

Here is the true New Covenant man of Jere. 31:31-34.

- All that matters in life is that he pleases God.
- He can know what pleases God because the Lord's law is in His heart.
- (cf. John 6:35)

IV. You must testify about the Lord with courage 40:9-10

The theme of evangelism of v.3 finds a wonderful companion in vs. 9-10. Our text is bracketed by the phrase “the great assembly.”

1) Tell of His righteousness 40:9-10

The salvation of the Lord is here described in a 5-fold manner: 1) Your righteousness, 2) Your faithfulness, 3) Your salvation, 4) Your loving-kindness, and 5) Your truth.

“Your righteousness,” i.e. your righteous acts (2X) I have proclaimed their good news: (positive aspect), “I do not restrain my lips” nor “have I hidden them in my heart” (negative aspect). Those who trust Him (vs. 3-4) will see His “wonderful works” (v.5), His righteousness.

2) Tell of His faithfulness 40:10

Four additional aspects of good news are now addressed.

- Faithfulness – dependability, support, firmness
- Salvation – rescue, deliverance, safety, aid, help
- Lovingkindness – (*hesed*), covenant love and loyalty
- Truth – reliability, trustworthiness to keep your word

V. You must plead with the Lord will cause

40:11-15

There is now a change in tone. Trouble is still lurking in the shadows where evil men often operate.

1) Ask for the Lord's presence when ambushed

40:11-12

- David asks for 3 things in v. 11: 1) tender mercies (*rahamin*), 2) loving-kindness (*hesed*), and 3) truth (*emet*). Note the prominence of the personal pronoun “Your.”
- First, “innumerable evils (NIV, “troubles without number”) surround me.” Second, “my iniquities have overtaken me.” (Is the king taking on the sins of the nation as his own?! Van Gemeren, 323). Third, “They are more than the hairs of my head,” an intensifying of the previous 2 declarations. Fourth, “therefore my heart fails me.”

2) Ask for the Lord's protection when attacked

40:13-15

- The theme of the Lord’s protections is more fully developed in vs. 13-15.
- Vs 13 Be pleased (it must be your will), O Lord (Yahweh), to deliver (rescue, save) me; O Lord, “come quickly” (NIV), to help me.
- In vs. 14-15 David is specific in his prayer but note again, he in faith entrust the entire matter to the Lord. Note the repetition of the phrase “let them” (3X). “Aha, aha!”” Aha is a potshot, a slur of derision and contempt; it expresses malicious joy and delight over the misfortune of one’s enemy.

- David says make them ashamed, dishonored and shamed. David says confuse them, drive them backward, confound them. David says all they want is to take my life, do me evil, and ridicule me.

VI. You must rejoice in the Lord with celebration 40:16-17

There is a different “let them” (*NKJV*) or “May all” (*NIV*) group in these closing verses. Here are those, like David, who love, seek, rejoice in, and magnify the Lord.

1) Remember He is your Savior 40:16-17

Salvation points us to the God who saves. To love His salvation is to love Him. That is why the text does not say, “Salvation be magnified.” No, “the Lord be magnified.”

2) Remember He is your deliverer 40:17

- Amazingly, the Lord thinks about us, little puny you and me. And He thinks about us with an intent to help and deliver. That is who He is. The Lord is my help. The Lord is my deliverer. Thus I can plead, when I am in trouble and people would do me harm, “do not delay, O my God.”

Conclusion

What an amazing, but delightful surprise Ps 40 turns out to be. It portrays the career and commitment of Christ, and yet because we are in Him, there is a poignant and powerful word for us, a word of personal and world evangelization.

Will you say to King Jesus, “I delight to do your will, O my God?”