“Christ in the Psalms: A Song for the King”

Psalm 40:1-10; Hebrews 10:5-14

(notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 5/1/22)

The best singing is from those who have experienced God’s grace and forgiveness. In the Psalms, David sings from his own experience. Ps. 1:3 talks of how being rooted in God’s Word provides strength and stability. In Ps. 8:1 , David is awestruck by the Lord’s handiwork. Ps. 23 sings of God’s protection and preservation. The best songs are born from experience.

Now we turn to Ps. 40. Have you ever been stuck in a horrible pit, a mucky, miry pit, hopelessly held captive? Sure you have! You have been waiting and waiting and waiting on the Lord, and now you’re waiting some more. (Q1) You can’t save yourself- your only rescue is from Above. When it finally happens, a joyful rescue is remembered, and a joyous song springs forth in response. Do you live the kind of life that speaks of the faithfulness and the loyal love of your King? (Q2) Every time God rescues His people, He writes a new song of praise based on His loyal love. Private rescue is meant to bring public praise. It is meant to be a testimony to others. Does your life sing to your neighbors and coworkers of God’s loyal love? God’s Kingdom grows to the tune of His faithfulness to His followers. (Q3)

We’ve all been stuck in bad habits, anxiety, depression, discouragement, messed up relationships, worry, self-pity, addiction… stuck in sin. Sometimes the miry clay is a clay we’ve produced ourselves. Sometimes the miry clay is God’s providence for His children. (Q4) Either way, we are to wait patiently for our Lord. Waiting is NOT just the passage of time. It is a fervent expectation of God’s answer. But while waiting, we sometimes try to do things on our own strength… the very things we’ve asked God to do! David waits as one who has experienced God’s loyal love, the love of a wise and faithful and forgiving Father. Those who wait on the Lord serve Him while still in the pit, even as they cry out to be delivered. As you are waiting, it’s comforting to know that you are always on His mind (Ps. 40:5). (Q5)

Ps. 40 is another Messianic psalm. It points to the Lord’s Anointed. We can’t work our way out of the mire on our own. Any help must come from outside of ourselves. Ps. 40:6 presents a seeming paradox: God had ordained the Old Testament sacrifices, but now David sings of God NOT desiring sacrifices. The key? The system of sacrifices was not given as an end in itself. The sacrifices foreshadowed a future atonement for sin BY CHRIST. Only God can get you unstuck. Many Jews began to believe that these religious rituals kept them square with God. Some people act like that even today! God does not desire going through the motions of dressed up religious activities. God wants your heart. (Q6)

You are meant to live for the glory of God. He gave you a mouth to speak His truth and declare His praises. He gave you a heart to love Him (not yourself). He gave you a mind to think on Him and think of others and think of what is right and just and pure and lovely. He gave you eyes to focus on Him (and not on what is sinful). Jesus came as a willing slave. He has paid the cost of our rescue from the miry pits.

Jesus came to do what you will always ultimately fail to do (make yourself right with God). The whole Bible is written about Christ. The Good Shepherd has come to give His life for His sheep. He is the once-for-all sacrifice (see Heb. 10:5-14). Salvation is of the Lord. If the King is speaking to your heart, RUN to Him. In Him we are sanctified: set apart from sin, and set apart for God. We live thankfully because we know how bad the miry pit was. We want to share our joy because we know how great our rescue is and how great is the faithfulness of God in His grace. It is normal for God’s people to declare His love and His mercy. May our lives sing a glad song to our King!

**QUESTIONS**:

1. Paul waited and waited for his “thorn in the flesh” (2 Cor.12:7-10) to be taken away, but it was not. Why not?
2. Mark 5:19 records the perfect example of this. You don’t have to be a polished preacher- just proclaim what He has done for you and how He’s had MERCY on you.
3. Read Rom. 10:13-15. This is our charge. This is why we are His ambassadors. In your own words, state what great things God has done for you and how He has shown mercy on you.
4. How can the miry clay be God’s providence for you? Do you have an example?
5. Ps. 40:5 also calls us to remember the wonders He has done. Share one with your group. Then devote a section of your prayer list to “His Wonders” so that you’ll never forget.
6. To paraphrase Philip Yancey, God’s grace can be summed up by these two statements: “I will never measure up” and “I don’t have to!” Jesus paid it all! When Pastor Steve said, “God wants your heart”, what did he mean?

“Great is Thy Faithfulness” (Chisholm)

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not

As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!