

October 2, 2011  
Evening Service  
"From Pit to Praise"  
Psalm 40

*How do we get from the PIT to PRAISE?*

I. *We need patience and passionate prayer –*  
<sup>NKJ</sup> Psalm 40:1 <To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.> I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. (Psa 40:1 NKJ)

*Could David have figured some ungodly ways out of his personal pit?*

*Sarah and Abraham did --- their pit was no children, in spite of God's promise --- their answer was Hagar!*

*David's impatient answer in regard to Saul could have been killing him.*

*David cried to the LORD!*

*If God tested David, might He test us?*

II. *We must realize only God can establish our steps –*  
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. (Psalm 40:2 NKJ)

*Have you ever felt yourself to be in a place of instability, some place where you have no firm place to stand –*

*Only God can provide such footing!*

What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? (Romans 8:31 NKJ)

<sup>45</sup> Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of

hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (1Sa 17:45 NKJ)

III. *We need to realize God alone writes and inspires "New Songs" –*

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. (Psalm 40:3 NKJ)

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. (Revelation 5:9 NAS)

And they sang a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no one could learn the song except the one hundred and forty-four thousand who had been purchased from the earth. (Revelation 14:3 NAS)

*Only God gives new life –*

<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. (2Co 5:17 NAS)

<sup>5</sup> And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." (Rev 21:5 NAS)

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"Can the Ethiopian change his skin Or the leopard his spots? *Then* you also can do good Who are accustomed to doing evil. (Jeremiah 13:23 NAS)

IV. *We need to realize this is a general principle that applies to all who trust in the LORD –*  
Blessed *is* that man who makes the LORD his trust, And does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. (Psalm 40:4 NKJ)

Blessed *is* the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. <sup>4</sup> The ungodly *are* not so, But *are* like the chaff which the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish. (Psalm 1:1-6 NKJ)

V. *We need to realize God's blessing are beyond our ability to count –*

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. (Psalm 40:5 NKJ)

A. *God's works –*

<sup>24</sup> O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions-- (Psa 104:24 NKJ)

B. *God's thoughts –*

<sup>11</sup> For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. (Jer 29:11 NKJ)

VI. *We need to hear God's word and obey His law –*

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. <sup>7</sup> 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 (Psalm 40:6-8a NKJ)

VII. *We need to do the work of an evangelist –*

"<sup>9</sup> I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O LORD, You Yourself know. <sup>10</sup> 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. (Psalm 40:9-10 NKJ)

1. *The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the ultimate "good news."*
2. *Not restrained, not hidden, not concealed*

VIII. *We need to realize our constant and even desperate dependence upon God's grace –*

Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me. <sup>12</sup> For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me. <sup>13</sup> Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me! (Psalm 40:11-13 NKJ)

<sup>16</sup> And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (John 1:16 NKJ)

<sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. (John 1:16 NIV)

<sup>16</sup> For of His fulness we have all received, and grace upon grace. (Joh 1:16 NAS)

IX. *We need to pray for God's strength against Christ's enemies and for the godly –*

Let those be ashamed and humiliated together Who seek my life to destroy it; Let those be turned back and dishonored Who delight in my hurt. <sup>15</sup> Let those be appalled because of their shame Who say to me, "Aha, aha!" <sup>16</sup> Let all who seek Thee rejoice and be glad in Thee; Let those who love Thy salvation say continually, "The LORD be magnified!" (Psalm 40:14-16 NAS)

1. *These verses speak of David as a king - :14-15*

2. *These verses speak of David in His connection to Christ –*

And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3 NAS)

3. *Those who love Christ will be blessed, those who do not will not be –*

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36 NAS)

X. *We need to realize who we are and Who the LORD is –*

Since I am afflicted and needy, Let the Lord be mindful of me; Thou art my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God. (Psalm 40:17 NAS)

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3 NAS)

<sup>15</sup> For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite. (Isa 57:15 NAS)