

GOD'S WORK IN TIMES OF WAITING

Psalm 40

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INTRODUCTION: THE SETTING OF PSALM 40

? What is God doing when we are waiting for Him to act?

? How should we respond to God at these times?

I. GOD HEARS THOSE WHO PATIENTLY WAIT, V. 1

God listens to His children in a way that He won't listen to other people.

Psalm 66:18

If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear;

Proverbs 28:19

One who turns his ear away from listening to the Law,
Even his prayer is an abomination.

? In this psalm, what kind of person does God listen to?

David's Resolve: I want to be a man who waits for God because that is the kind of person whose prayers God hears.

? What does it mean to wait in Psalm 40?

A. WAITING DOESN'T REPLACE GOD WITH A MORE EXPEDIENT SOLUTION, v. 4

B. WAITING DOESN'T TRUST IN RELIGION BUT PRODUCES OBEDIENCE, v. 6

No doubt David was recalling the event in King Saul's life that caused God to reject him as king.

1 Samuel 15:22

Does the Lord have as much delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of the Lord?

Behold, to obey is better than a sacrifice,

And to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.

Part of trusting God is obeying Him while you wait for Him.

C. WAITING DELIGHTS IN GOD'S WORD, VV. 7,8

Deuteronomy 17; 2 Peter 1:3

II. GOD RESCUES THOSE WHO REST IN HIS COMPASSIONATE MERCY, V. 2

David's Resolve: I want to be a man who thanks God for past blessings and trusts God for future mercy.

A. DAVID RECOGNIZED WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN THE PAST, VV. 2, 5

1. God Made My Footsteps Firm, v. 2
2. God Has Performed Many Wonders, v. 5

B. DAVID RECOGNIZED GOD'S WORK YET TO BE DONE, VV. 11-13

1. He Needs God's Continued Compassion, v. 11a
2. He Needs God's Continued Mercy And Truth, v. 11b

? Why does David need mercy?

- a. For evils beyond number surround me, v. 12a
- b. My iniquities have overtaken me, v. 12b

Matthew 22:37, 38

And He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the great and foremost commandment."

Romans 3:23

3. A Plea For God's Deliverance, v. 13

III. GOD GIVES US A NEW SONG TO SING, V. 3

David's Resolve: I want to be a man who continues to experience God's blessing so that I can continue to praise God.

Verses 9 and 10 are the heart of this psalm where David says, I have not stopped singing about God's work.

A. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAISE, V. 5

B. A TESTIMONY TO OTHERS, V. 3

David's testimony of trusting in God has both negative and positive results.

(see 2 Corinthians 2:15-16)

1. A Negative Testimony

- a. Let those be ashamed who seek my life, v. 14a
- b. Let those who delight in my hurt be dishonored, v. 14b
- c. Let those be appalled who say, "Aha!" v. 15

2. An Encouraging Testimony: Many Will See It and Fear and Will Trust In God, v. 3b

- a. Those who seek God rejoice when God works, v. 16
- b. Those who love God's salvation magnify Him

CONCLUSION: GOD WORKS WHILE WE WAIT

David's waiting is a picture of our waiting.

We rest in the fact that God does all things for our good and His glory.

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:29

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.