

Evening Sermon Outline – October 13, 2019

“Praying for Mercy” Psalm 38

The Biblical title of this Psalm is **<A Psalm of David. To bring to remembrance.>**

“We will suppose it penned when he was sick and in pain, and then it teaches us that times of sickness are times to bring to remembrance, to bring the sin to remembrance, for which God contended with us, to awaken our consciences to deal faithfully and plainly with us, and set our sins in order before us, for our humiliation.”

Matthew Henry

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)

2. *From current pains, described:*

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

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!

1. *In :3 David recognizes the moral cause of his sickness, pain and trials is God’s judgment of sin –*

There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin. Psalm 34:3

In the King James version the word translated “health” is translated “rest” – Sin does not allow “health” in bones, or “rest” for bones. If you have ever been sick; you understand this! You lie in bed tired, but not comfortable ... Christ is the ONLY CURE, the only REST from sin -

“Everything is in motion till it comes at the center; Christ is the center of the soul; the needle of the compass trembles till it comes to the North Pole.”—*Thomas Watson.*

2. *In :4 David communicates the fact that his SINS were too much for him –*

4 For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me. (Psalm 38:4 NKJ)

“Like waves of the deep sea; like black mire in which a man utterly sinks. Above my hopes, my strength, and my life itself, my sin rises in its terror.” C H Spurgeon

Note this is David, the man after God’s own heart, speaking of his foolishness and sin –

“It is of singular use to us, that the backslidings of the holy men of God are recorded in Holy Writ. Spots appear nowhere more disagreeable than when seen in a most beautiful face, or on the cleanest garment. And it is expedient to have a perfect knowledge of the filthiness of sin. We also learn from them to think humbly of ourselves, to depend on the grace of God, to keep a stricter eye upon ourselves, lest perhaps we fall into the same or more grievous sins.” Gal. 6:1.—*Herman Witsius*

III. David lists his many pains and difficulties, again, blaming only himself for them -

My wounds are foul and festering because of my foolishness. Psalm 38:5

Note how David feels and expresses the impact / pain of his sin -

1. *Constant mourning -*

6 I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. Psalm 38:6

2. *Fever, no sound flesh –*

7 For my loins are full of inflammation, and there is no soundness in my flesh. Psalm 38:7

3. *Weakness, groaning, turmoil of the heart -*

8 I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart. Psalm 38:8

4. *David's honesty, openness with God about his sin and pain. It is because he knows God sees all -*

9 Lord, all my desire is before You; and my sighing is not hidden from You. Psalm 38:9

5. *A panting heart and vision darkened -*

10 My heart pants, my strength fails me; as for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me. Psalm 38:10

6. *David's friends are gone -*

11 My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. Psalm 38:11

7. *Enemies coming like shark to blood -*

12 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. Psalm 38:12

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

13 But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. 14 Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response. (Psalm 38:12-14 NKJ)

IV. David's only Hope is in God and His grace - :15-20

1. *God is David's Hope –*

For in You, O LORD, I hope; You will hear, O Lord my God. 16 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. *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. *David's hope is a praying hope – Do not forsake me, O LORD; O my God, be not far from me! 22 Make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation! (Psalm 38:21-22*

"Faith the suppliant is now made faith triumphant."—Franz Delitzsch.)

Arnold Brevick