

Evening Sermon / March 27, 2022 / Psalm 141 "Praying Against Wickedness!"

Another A Psalm of David.

I. A prayer for a quick, needed response from God –

LORD, I cry out to You; Make haste to me! Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Psalm 141:1 (NKJV)

1. *Cry – implies desperateness*
2. *Make haste – an immediate need, we can PRAY God will bring fast answers to our prayers!*
3. *Give ear / cry – repetition of the cry and a desire for a hearing, shows David's fervency in prayer –*
... **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16 B (NKJV)**

II. David prayed for his prayers -

Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:2 (NKJV)

1. *David wants his prayers to be like the commanded incense, set before God, pleasing to God!*
 - A. *Set before God, incense rises, up to God! Now you can imagine wind blowing it, rain dampening it, as it rises toward heaven. So, so many things might hinder our prayers ... but David prays for his prayers, that they would be **be set before You***
 - B. *And as incense because his desire is to please God! Incense and prayers are compared elsewhere in Scripture, even in the Book of Revelation -*
⁸ Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. Revelation 5:8 (NKJV)
2. *He wants his prayers to be like the evening sacrifice, regular, continued through the day, compare to Psalm 5 –*

My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct it to You, And I will look up. Psalm 5:3 (NKJV)

This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Savior all the day long.

Fanny Crosby

¹⁷ pray without ceasing, 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)

III. *David prays to be kept from sin and temptation –*

Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips. ⁴ Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice wicked works With men who work iniquity; And do not let me eat of their delicacies. Psalm 141:3-4 (NKJV)

1. *How important are our words? How important the words of a pastor? Or even more so, the words of a king? The words of a father? The words of a mother? The words of a friend?*

Dr. James Dobson tells of counseling a woman whose father left his mother when she was just a child. The last words she heard from her father were – “the reason I am leaving your mother is because I cannot stand to live with such an ugly child!”

Verse 3.—“Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth.” Nature having made my lips to be a door to my words, let grace keep that door, that no word may be suffered to go out which may any way tend to the dishonor of God, or the hurt of others. —Matthew Henry.

2. *How important our hearts? Jesus says –*

¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. Matthew 15:18–19 (NKJV)

If our hearts are by nature so full of sin, how should we guard them?

“Keep your heart as you would a prisoner.” Thomas Watson

3. *How careful we should be in our relations with the ungodly -*

... And do not let me eat of their delicacies. Psalm 141:4 B (NKJV)

David welcomes the wounds of friends - :5; here he is careful of the kisses / delicacies of the enemy ...

IV. *David prays for what his son Solomon would later call, the wounds of a friend –*

Let the righteous strike me; *It shall be* a kindness. And let him rebuke me; *It shall be* as excellent oil; Let my head not refuse it. Psalm 141:5 A (NKJV)

Proverbs 27:6 (NKJV) ⁶ Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

V. *David’s reason for all these prayers -*

For still my prayer is against the deeds of the wicked. Psalm 141:5 B (NKJV)

1. *David cannot pray against the wicked, or against their wicked deeds, if he is wicked himself! This would be horrible hypocrisy!*

- A. *Because of the wicked he prays for a quick response – Psalm 141:1*
 - B. *Because of the wicked he prays for his own prayer’s quality and regularity – Psalm 141:2*
 - C. *Because of the wicked he prays for God’s protection against temptation – Psalm 141:3-4*
 - D. *Because of the wicked he welcomes the rebuke of godly friends – Psalm 141:5 A*
2. *David’s prayers against the deeds of the wicked, is a prayer of a king, a prayer for the ultimate welfare of his people Israel!*

A. *If wicked judges are overthrown, the people will start listening to David, and his sweet words, also if the judges are suffering themselves, maybe even THEY hear –*

⁶ Their judges are overthrown by the sides of the cliff, and they hear my words, for they are sweet. Psalm 141:6 (NKJV)

They shall hear my words; for they are sweet.” Those that slighted the word of God before, will relish it and be glad of it when they are in affliction; for that opens the ear to instruction. When the world is bitter the word is sweet.

Matthew Henry.

B. *David prays against the wicked because of the horrible calamity they have brought upon the nation –*

⁷ Our bones are scattered at the mouth of the grave, as when one plows and breaks up the earth. Psalm 141:7 (NKJV)

David might have in mind the city of priests and their families that were slaughtered by Saul and Doeg the Edomite, or more generally the nation at the end of Saul’s reign when both he (Saul) and his son / David’s friend - Jonathan were killed by the Philistines in battle ...

Poor, prayerless leadership left Israel in a mess -

VI. *David knew how he himself was different than other leaders in Israel, his eyes were on God, the Lord, he was depending upon God, desiring to be faithful to God –*

⁸ But my eyes are upon You, O GOD the Lord; In You I take refuge; Do not leave my soul destitute. ⁹ Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, And from the traps of the workers of iniquity. ¹⁰ Let the wicked fall into their own nets, While I escape safely. Psalm 141:8-10 (NKJV)

1. *David had his eyes upon God, meaning –*

A. *Meaning he was following God’s leadership, God’s rule, he was a king, but God was his Lord –*

⁸ But my eyes are upon You, O GOD the Lord; Psalm 141:8 A

- *David would be obedient to God's commands*
- *David would be a man of prayer*
- *David was seeking God's blessing, not only for himself but all Israel!*

B. He counted God his refuge In You I take refuge Psalm 141:8 B - God would be his protection, safe place against wicked rivals ...

C. He prays for his own soul - Do not leave my soul destitute. Psalm 141:8 C
David's personal holiness, his salvation, and the fruitfulness of his soul was ultimately in God's hands, as we all are! A godly, filled with the Spirit king, is a great blessing to a nation! Godly leaders are the ultimate wonderful blessing to the church! Godly leaders are a blessing to a nation!

2. David's desire was for God's protection –

⁹ Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, And from the traps of the workers of iniquity. Psalm 141:9

3. David's desire was for a great difference to be seen between the wicked and himself –

¹⁰ Let the wicked fall into their own nets, While I escape safely. Psalm 141:10 (NKJV)

A. God can and does make this kind of thing happen –

B. Seeing godly leaders victorious and ungodly falling is a great blessing to a nation!

Arnold A. Brevick