

Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14

Betrayed by a Friend

Text: Psalm 41

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. Psalms 41 and 55 reveal the betrayal of the Messiah by one who was His friend...

I. THE SETTING OF THE PSALMS

- A. Both psalms are identified as "a psalm of David."
- B. It was intended for public worship as the heading indicates: "To the Chief Musician."
- C. The word "Neginoth" in Psalm 55 refers to stringed instruments.
- D. There is little doubt that both psalms concern the time of David's persecution by his son Absalom.

II. THE STUDY OF THE PSALM (PSALMS 41)

- A. Psalm 40 ended with David describing himself as "poor and needy," yet remembered by the Lord (vs. 17).
- B. Psalm 41 begins by stating the blessedness of the one who considers or gives attention to the poor (vs. 1-3).
 1. The term "poor" includes those who are in need of money or material means.
 2. However, it primarily refers to those who are weak or low.
 3. Consider Jesus' reprimand of Judas concerning the poor (John 12:6, 8).
 4. God's concern for the poor (both physically and spiritually) is found throughout the Scriptures (cf. Matthew 25:34ff; Acts 20:35; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; James 1:27; etc.).
- C. Those who care for the poor imitate the Father in Heaven and are promised His blessings.
 1. David had cared for the poor and, therefore, trusted in God's promises.
 2. He also longed for those who would care for him in his low condition.
- D. Though David trusted in God's promises, he was facing several difficult situations (vs. 4-9).
 1. There was the problem of his own sin (vs. 4).
 2. There was the problem of slander toward his reputation (vs. 5).
 3. There was the problem of dishonesty against him (vs. 6; cf. Proverbs 26:24-26).
 4. There was the problem of gossip and backbiting (vs. 7).
 5. There was the problem of national deception (vs. 8).
 6. There was the problem of betrayal (vs. 9).
 - a. This was a reference to Ahithophel who betrayed David (2 Samuel 15:12, 31; 16:23; 17:14, 23).

Prophecy of Jesus

- b. Remember that Ahithophel was Bathsheba's grandfather (2 Samuel 11:3; 23:34).
- 7. The nature and depth of this betrayal is described in Psalm 55:12-14, 20-22.
- E. The psalm ends with David's praise of God for His faithfulness even in times of suffering (vs. 10-13).
 - 1. The godly are exalted over their enemies (vs. 10).
 - 2. The godly are exalted in God's blessings (vs. 11).
 - 3. The godly are exalted in their integrity (vs. 12).
 - 4. The godly are exalted in praise to God (vs. 13).

III. THE SAVIOR IN THE PSALM (PSALM 41:9)

- A. The passage that describes David's troubles also details the Lord's difficulties in the days leading up to His crucifixion (with the exception of the problem of sin).
- B. Truly, Jesus "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).
- C. The statement of verse 9 is applied to Judas in his betrayal of Jesus (John 13:18, 21, 26-27).
- D. Judas executed his betrayal with a kiss, the greeting of a friend (Luke 22:47-48).
- E. Judas had been a trusted companion of Jesus and the apostles (John 12:6; 13:29).
- F. Judas had partaken in many of the Lord's blessings, dined with him on numerous occasions, and - worst of all - had been present at the institution of the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:19-21).
- G. Yet, he lifted up his heel against the Lord in betrayal - as a horse turning to kick violently the one who has just fed him.
- H. All this was done in fulfillment of the Scripture (John 17:12; Acts 1:16).
 - 1. As David was a type of Christ, so Ahithophel's betrayal of David was typical of Judas' betrayal of Jesus.
 - 2. Likewise, Ahithophel's suicide by hanging foreshadowed the same actions of Judas (2 Samuel 17:23; Matthew 27:5).
- I. The Lord is a trusted and faithful friend to His disciples (John 15:13-14; Matthew 12:50; Luke 12:4; James 2:23).
- J. Every Christian must strive never to betray Him by rejection or rebellion!