

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

5 April 2015

Topics

A.M. Bible Class:

To fulfill Scripture (John 17:12f)

A.M. Lesson:

Up from the grave he arose (Luke 24:1-8)!

P.M. Lesson:

The condition of our hearts (Matthew 5:20f)

Wednesday:

Romans 9:19f

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	11:00 A.M.

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2

Lessons from Psalm 41

Psalm 41, NET Bible	Notes
1 <i>For the music director; a psalm of David.</i> How blessed is the one who treats the poor properly! When trouble comes, the LORD delivers him.	This psalm begins with a blessing for Yahweh. It may be copied from liturgical words that were traditionally spoken over a sick person. The psalmist
2 May the LORD protect him and save his life! May he be blessed in the land! Do not turn him over to his enemies!	Believes that God responds to the charitable person by healing his diseases. It is (mostly) suitable as a prayer for the sick—except
3 The LORD supports him on his sickbed; you completely heal him from his illness.	for the mention of vindication of the psalmist's enemies.
4 As for me, I said: "O LORD, have mercy on me! Heal me, for I have sinned against you!"	An explicit confession of sin and prayer for healing. Perhaps this illness is judgment for some sin.
5 My enemies ask this cruel question about me, 'When will he finally die and be forgotten?'	The psalmist's enemies seem to have a motive of economic greed. They hope to absorb his estate.
6 When someone comes to visit, he pretends to be friendly; he thinks of ways to defame me, and when he leaves he slanders me.	Enemies come to visit, pretending to provide comfort; but when the visit is over, they commit slander.

7 All who hate me whisper insults about me to one another; they plan ways to harm me.

8 They say, 'An awful disease overwhelms him, and now that he is bed-ridden he will never recover.'

9 Even my close friend whom I trusted, he who shared meals with me, has turned against me.

10 As for you, O LORD, have mercy on me and raise me up, so I can pay them back!"

11 By this I know that you are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me.

12 As for me, you uphold me because of my integrity; you allow me permanent access to your presence.

13 The LORD God of Israel deserves praise in the future and forevermore! We agree! We agree!

Thus, the enemies happily anticipate.

Not only is there duplicity, there is betrayal. Quoted in John 13:18.

One reason for his desire for healing is so that he can enact vengeance. Alternatively, the psalmist may see his anticipated recovery as evidence (against his enemies' accusations) that he was righteous after all.

The psalmist sees his enemies' failure as evidence of Yahweh's favor. He is requesting recovery Now in order to show up his enemies again. He vows to regularly attend temple services.

This doxology, rather than concluding the psalm, concludes the "Book 1" subsection of the psalms.

"Human nature tells us to hang out with the powerful, the popular and the good-looking. God tells us to hang out with those who are forgotten, ignored or

ridiculed by the popular crowd. He also promises to bless those who humble themselves and obey this call" (Revolution study Bible for Teen Guys, Zondervan).

"Rejection by the community both multiplies the psalmist's suffering and paradoxically drives him or her to reply even more deeply on God" (New Interpreter's One Volume Commentary, Abingdon). It is often easier to see adversity as an opportunity to lean on God. We should see good circumstances the same way. Everything that happens in one's life is an opportunity to draw closer to God. We should interpret everything that happens in such a light.

Come let us reason together

Floyd Kaiser, Ada, OK

"Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD, Though your sins are scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool" (Isaiah 1:18).

The compelling feature of this passage is not anything that the ancient listeners deserved to hear. They were rebellious to God and His prophets. Their worship services had become so odious to God that he wanted them to stop. He hated their worship (1:14). They were so out of sync with righteous living that God had stopped listening to their prayers (1:15).

Yet, in spite of their unworthiness God offers the invitation, "Come now, and let us reason together." "Let's discuss this situation and talk about how your scarlet can become white and your red can become like wool."

What is God's motivation for extending such a warm and inviting call to such a rebellious, untoward people? The answer might be embedded in how He addresses them. In Isaiah 1:3 God says, "An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manager, but Israel does not know, *My people* (my italics) do not understand."

The Israelites were not just any people; they were uniquely God's people. They were God's possession. "I have put My words in your mouth and have covered you with the shadow of My hand, to establish the heavens, to found the earth, and to say to Zion, 'You are my people'" (Isaiah 51:16).

When someone is our own, like a son or daughter, there is an unrivaled drive to find the best for her.

We want to forgive those we love. Parents are far more likely to see hope in their own children than everyone else. We naturally will believe in our own. The thrilling fact is that all of us who have obeyed the gospel by believing in Jesus, repenting of our sins, confessing Jesus and being baptized for the forgiveness of sins, are now uniquely "children of God" (see John 1:12; Romans 8:16; Philippians 2:15, etc). We, of all people, can hear God calling us with the same ownership that He expressed to citizens of Jerusalem of long ago, "Come let us reason together!"

News:

Joy Gibson is undergoing post-surgery cancer treatments.

Brian Miller, friend of Marc and Jen Cavasos, is not well.

Billy Martin requests prayers for her friend **Rose**. There will be an **ice cream** and general junk-food **social** at the church building on April 11 at 2:00 P.M. Bring cookies, ice cream and/or anything else you think will go well with ice cream.

Pete and Cindy Waller are out of town—and country.

The **Shorts** will be absent for the A.M. services.

Prayer List:

Joy Gibson—cancer treatments

Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration

Ken Cocke—back and shoulder pains

Janet Radar—nursing home

H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia

Mike Cavasos—constant pain. Foot surgeries.

Sandy Cavasos—degenerative disk disease

Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs

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