

Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Saturday 2nd May

Psalm 40

Sometimes when people don't believe, it's helpful to share your testimony, your story of how you came to Christ. One can argue about various beliefs, but your changed life is a reality.

1 I waited patiently for the Lord;
he turned to me and heard my cry.
2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.
3 He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
and put their trust in him.
"Look what happened to me!"

4 Blessed is the one
who trusts in the Lord,
who does not look to the proud,
to those who turn aside to false gods.
5 Many, Lord my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.
None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare.
"Look what could happen to you!"

6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire –
but my ears you have opened; –
burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require.
7 Then I said, 'Here I am, I have come –
it is written about me in the scroll.
8 I desire to do your will, my God;
your law is within my heart.'

Like a key that unlocks 3 different doors....

1. David recognises God wants his heart, not his offerings.
2. Jesus (quoted Hebrews 10v5-10) gave himself as the ultimate payment for sin. The sacrificial system was ended by the prophesied Saviour.
3. God wants us to yield ourselves to him, not just in externals but from the heart.

9 I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly;
I do not seal my lips, Lord,
as you know.
10 I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;
I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help.
I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness
from the great assembly.

Again, David gives us the Psalms to sing God's praise
Jesus came with good news of the kingdom of heaven
and we share with others how our lives were changed.

11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord;
may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

12 For troubles without number surround me;
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.
They are more than the hairs of my head,
and my heart fails within me.
13 Be pleased to save me, Lord;
come quickly, Lord, to help me.

God has lifted David out of the pit, but not out of the world. We still have many problems, but we know who to turn to. The God who has done so much for us is still sovereign!

14 May all who want to take my life
be put to shame and confusion;
may all who desire my ruin
be turned back in disgrace.
15 May those who say to me, 'Aha! Aha!'
be appalled at their own shame.
16 But may all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you;
may those who long for your saving help always say,
'The Lord is great!'
Say it again and again! "The Lord is great!"
17 But as for me, I am poor and needy;
may the Lord think of me.
You are my help and my deliverer;
you are my God, do not delay.

then we can sing with David in v3, ['There is a new song in my mouth'!](#)

Gordon