

## Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May

### Psalm 41

David is surrounded by people scheming for his death, including at different times those whom he trusted as friends.

He therefore prefigures the righteous one who suffers and is betrayed.  
Because Christ suffered for us, we can come to him to find help.

David feels his need, and is confident in his God.

1 Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;  
the Lord delivers them in times of trouble.

2 The Lord protects and preserves them –  
they are counted among the blessed in the land –  
he does not give them over to the desire of their foes.

3 The Lord sustains them on their sick-bed  
and restores them from their bed of illness.

This is the sort of person who trusts in God, and the sort of God we trust in.  
Even when we are struggling, we are blessed and sustained.

4 I said, 'Have mercy on me, Lord;  
heal me, for I have sinned against you.'

5 My enemies say of me in malice,  
'When will he die and his name perish?'

6 When one of them comes to see me,  
he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander;  
then he goes out and spreads it around.

Their malice leads them to falsehood. My distress takes me to my God.

7 All my enemies whisper together against me;  
they imagine the worst for me, saying,  
8 'A vile disease has afflicted him;  
he will never get up from the place where he lies.'

9 Even my close friend,  
someone I trusted,  
one who shared my bread,  
has turned against me.

Christ quotes this as Judas betrays him (John 13v18). Jesus too was hated by those he should have ruled; was betrayed by one who ate with him.

He knew full well what he would have to go through to save us, and yet he gladly suffered so we could know his mercy.

10 But may you have mercy on me, Lord;  
raise me up, that I may repay them.

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

12 Because of my integrity you uphold me  
and set me in your presence for ever.

Christ rose from the dead and reigns forever. And he takes us to be with him in heaven for ever.

13 Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting.  
Amen and Amen.

And we echo - Amen and Amen! We join the crowd that praise Him for ever and for ever.