

Out of the Miry Clay, Into the Marvelous Way (Part 1)

Psalm 40: 1-3

Our text verses are some of the most familiar and quoted in all of Scripture. Surely they are dear to the heart of every believer, in that they speak of our being brought from the mire of sin unto the Rock of grace.

This is a Psalm of David, given unto the chief musician. These were psalms that were put to music and sang in public worship. Another important aspect of this Psalm is the fact that it is a Messianic Psalm, prophetic regarding the coming Messiah. [Vv.6-8](#) are quoted in [Heb.10:5-9](#) speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ. Clearly one of the best approaches to this Psalm would be to deal with the life of Christ and how He fulfilled these words.

However, we do the text no injustice by looking at it from David's perspective. He certainly had reason to rejoice in the provision of God. It is widely accepted that David penned these words either while on the run from Saul or during Absalom's rebellion.

Looking at this passage from a personal perspective, we all have reason to rejoice in the Lord. He has blessed us beyond measure and consistently meets our needs. He has saved my soul and established my goings! I want to begin considering the [assurances](#) of our faith as we think on: [Out of the Miry Clay, Into the Marvelous Way](#).

I. Our Patience (1a) – [I waited patiently for the LORD](#). That reveals just what it says, David waited for the Lord patiently. It means "*to wait, look for, to hope or expect.*" Take just a moment to consider the life of David. His was not a quick and easy ascension to the throne of Israel. Samuel had anointed him king, but he was forced to flee for his life for an extended period from Saul. Then when it seemed as if all was well within the kingdom, David found himself on the run again as Absalom rebelled and sought his life.

- Through it all, David never lost his faith or his focus. He had not chosen this path; God had called him and anointed him king. Even in the valleys of life, David continued to wait upon the Lord. This was a helpless and even hopeless situation at times, but David kept the faith.
- We've all had those times when we wondered how much longer we would be able to endure. We have all wondered when the Lord would show up and change our circumstances. These are times when our faith is put to the test. Many times the Lord has to get us to the place that we feel helpless so that we can realize our need for Him.
- You may be in the midst of a trial today. You may not see any way that you will ever make it through the valley, but you must continue to wait upon the Lord. He is never early, but He is always right on time. (Even in the situation of Lazarus where it appeared that He was 4 days late, our Lord was right on time.) [Is.40:31 – But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.](#)

I. Our Patience (1a)

II. Our Petition (1b) – [and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry](#). David reveals that his patience in waiting upon the Lord proved beneficial. God had inclined to him and heard his supplication. This reveals a couple of things regarding what we have in the Lord. Notice:

A. His Affection – The Lord [inclined](#) unto David. He was in a position in which he could not help himself. He was unable to get to where God was. His efforts and abilities were inadequate to resolve his desperate situation. His only hope was that God would come to Him.

- The world inclined has the idea of “*stretching out, bending toward.*” Isn’t that a blessing? David had reached as far as he possibly could and even then he fell miserably short. God stretched out His mighty hand and leaned in toward David, rescuing him from despair.
- I rejoice today that the Lord inclined unto me. I was lost and undone without hope. I had no means within myself of reaching the Lord. As He hung upon the cross of Calvary, giving His life a ransom for the sins of the world, Christ reached out to man and up to God. He bridged the gap that sin had caused!
- Even now there are situations that are beyond my ability to handle. There are times when I need the Lord and I am unable to get to Him. Even in those times, He is faithful. He arm is not short or His hand too busy to reach out for our need. [Is.59:1 – Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear](#): [Ps.27:14 – Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.](#)

B. His Awareness – [He heard my cry](#). As David cried out unto the Lord in desperation, He heard his plea for help. The situation was hopeless; defeat seemed imminent, as David cried unto the Lord. In a situation that looked hopeless, God was aware of David’s need and He responded to him.

- Take courage child of God, you are not forsaken. I know that we all have those seasons in life that we feel as if we are all alone and no one knows or understands our need. God is there and He has not forgotten. His eyes are upon those who belong unto Him and His ears are attentive to their needs. He will not refuse the prayer of a submissive heart. God will respond to those who diligently seek Him. [Ps.116:2 – Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.](#)
- Take just a moment to reflect on your life. I know that we have all had times when we doubted our faith and wondered if God was there, but we are still here. Even then God proved Himself faithful and He will never change. The same God that met your need then is attentive to you plea for help today. It may seem like it at times, but we are never alone! [Is.65:24 – And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.](#) [Jer.29:13 – And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.](#)

III. Our Position (2a) – Here David is reminded of the position of man before the Lord.

A. Our Inability (2a) – He brought me up also out of an horrible pit. When David sought the Lord he found himself in a horrible pit. That literally means “a pit, well, or cistern.” Clearly David was in a position that he could not rescue himself. He faced a situation that was beyond his ability to handle. His only hope was to be rescued by one who was able to free him from the bondage of the pit that he was in.

- Is that not a true depiction of sin? Prior to salvation, all are confined to the horrible pit of sin. In that state of captivity, mankind does not have the ability or the means to free himself. He is reserved to that desperate state of bondage until another sets him free. Jesus is the only One who possess the ability and the right to free one from the pit of sin. Without the saving grace of Christ our Lord, all would yet be bound by sin!

- Many today refuse to admit their need before the Lord. They may be willing to admit that they are bound by sin and circumstances of life, but they refuse to accept that Jesus is the only means of escape. You can wrestle with the bondage of sin until you are completely exhausted, but you will only become more entrapped. Salvation is of the Lord alone. It is impossible to achieve in and of ourselves! Ephes.2:8-10 – For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: [9] Not of works, lest any man should boast. [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

B. Our Iniquity (2a) – He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay. David had been delivered from a horrible pit filled with miry clay. He was in a place of confinement, covered in the mud, filth, and grime of his surroundings. He describes a place that has little to be desired, a place of darkness, dampness, and miry clay. I can imagine him being lifted out of that pit barely recognizable. His garments spotted and soiled from the mud that he was forced to lie in.

- Are you beginning to make the connection? We too were bound in the pit of sin, within the miry clay of our iniquity. Our garments were spotted and soiled by the world. We no longer resembled the image in which we were created, but the sin that surrounded us.

- Many may choose to deny or reject it, but all have been spotted by the world. We are born in sin. Our lives are dictated by the desire to satisfy the flesh. We have no desire for the things of God or His holiness. Just as David we were bound in a dark, damp, dirty place. We all stood in need of rescue and redemption!

I. Our Patience (1a)

II. Our Petition (1b)

III. Our Position (2a)

IV. Our Pardon (2) – He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. As we look at this single verse in its context we discover the pardon that it proclaims. There are a couple of aspects regarding our pardon that we need to consider.

A. Our Failures – As we've already considered, we were filled with iniquity in need of redemption, unable to secure that within ourselves. We were all helpless and hopeless apart from God. But, in His abundant grace and mercy He came to where we were, lifted us out of the miry clay and placed us in the marvelous way.

- When I consider the mercy of our Lord I stand amazed. I cannot fathom the love that our Lord had for those who were undeserving. We were filled with sin, at enmity with God, having no desire for a relationship with Him or His holiness, and yet He came and offered Himself a ransom for our sin. He provided the source for our salvation. He looked beyond our faults and failures to see our need! [2 Cor.5:21 – For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.](#) [Heb.12:2 – Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.](#)

B. Our Forgiveness (2) – [He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.](#) Isn't it amazing the grace and mercy that David describes in this verse? He speaks of God lifting him out of the pit of sin, from among the miry clay, and setting his feet upon a rock. That is an Old Testament picture of forgiveness and grace. David was pulled from the slippery slope of sin and established upon the rock. God did not allow him to remain in the state that he was in, but cleansed him and set him upon the firm foundation.

- I too can remember a time in my life when I was bound in the pit of sin, being pulled further and further into its slippery grip, but the Lord came by and rescued me. I was lifted out of the pit of sin and condemnation and set upon the Rock. By the way, the word [rock](#) refers to "a high and lofty cliff." We were lifted above the sin and care of this life, placed upon that high and lofty Rock of Christ the Lord!

- [Ps.27:5 – For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.](#) Here the word [pavilion](#) speaks of the place where the king's tent was erected in the midst of a host of soldiers, a place of safety and security. The word [tabernacle](#) speaks of that secret inner place where the king dwelt and only invited guests were allowed to enter. What a blessing to be established upon the Rock!

We have come to a good place to conclude the message and we will pick up here again next week. As we close this evening, I wonder if we have considered lately what the Lord has done for us. Are we mindful of His goodness and provision in our lives? If you are saved, you have been lifted out of the miry clay and placed in the marvelous way. That is something to rejoice about.

If you have never cried out unto the Lord and received His gracious gift of salvation, you remain in the pit of sin. Why not seek the Lord and allow Him to lift you out and establish you upon the Rock?

