

Out of the Miry Clay, Into the Marvelous Way (Part 2)

Psalm 40: 1-3

Last week we began to look at this wonderful passage of Scripture. We discovered that it is a Messianic Psalm, in that it is prophetic concerning the coming of Christ. It is also possible to consider these verses from David's personal perspective. In them, David rejoices in the goodness of the Lord and His provision for his life. That is the perspective that we have chosen to consider this passage.

Like David, we all have reason to rejoice in the Lord. He has blessed us all abundantly and beyond measure. As a quick reminder I would like to refresh our memories on what we discussed last week. First of all we considered:

I. Our Patience (1a) – I waited patiently for the LORD. “To wait, look for, expect.” David kept his focus even in the midst of adversity.

II. Our Petition (1b) – and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

A. His Affection – God inclined unto David. He was unable to get to God, so God came to him.

B. His Awareness – he heard my cry. David was helpless and hopeless and yet God heard his cry for help. We are never alone. God is aware of our needs.

III. Our Position (2a)

A. Our Inability – He brought me up also out of an horrible pit. David was in a situation where he could not rescue himself. He needed more than he had the ability to perform, bound in a pit without hope.

B. Our Iniquity – out of the miry clay. David was trapped by the miry clay around him. The more he struggled, the more entrapped he became. His garments were soiled by the filth and grime of the clay.

IV. Our Pardon (2)

A. Our Failures – We all were bound by sin, unable to secure our redemption, marred by sin.

B. Our Forgiveness – God brought us out of the pit of sin, set our feet on the rock, and established our goings.

Now, let's continue to look at the assurances that we have in the Lord as we are brought: **Out of the Miry Clay, Into the Marvelous Way**.

V. Our Progression (2d) – David declares that God had established his goings. Prior to the Lord's help, man's way always leads to despair and destruction. I believe that David knew the Lord prior to this particular need, but his physical dilemma presents a great spiritual truth. David found himself in a place that was anything but desirable. God came to him, lifted him out of the pit, and established his goings. That has the idea of “making firm or stable; to fix or fashion; to direct and prepare.”

- Consider where each of us was prior to meeting the Lord. We were bound in the pit of sin. We had no strength or power to redeem ourselves. God in His great mercy came to where we were and lifted us out. He pulled us from the grip of sin, cleansed us of our iniquity, and established our goings! He placed us upon the Rock, allowing us a firm foundation, and even continues to direct and prepare our way! [Ps.18:36 – Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip.](#) [Ps.37:23 – The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.](#) Aren't you glad that God is leading and directing our paths? I sure wouldn't want to have to wander through this life without His guidance!

I. Our Patience (1a)

II. Our Petition (1b)

III. Our Position (2a)

IV. Our Pardon (2)

V. Our Progression (2d)

VI. Our Praise (3a) – [And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God:](#)

Take a moment to consider where David was when the Lord came to him. He was on the run from those who sought his life. He found himself in a situation that was impossible to escape and when it seemed that all hope was gone, God showed up and met his need. Surely David had a song to sing. We too, of all people, ought to have a song to sing. Our blessed Lord has done so much for us. We have every reason to praise Him! Let's look at this praise a bit more in depth. Notice first of all:

A. The Origin of our Praise – I find this very interesting and encouraging as well. [He hath put a new song in my mouth.](#) David had every reason to praise the Lord for all that he had received, but it was God who placed that song within his heart. God had blessed David abundantly, and then He provided a song of rejoicing for those blessings.

- We have a hard time with the sovereignty of God in our lives. Our human nature finds it hard to submit to the absolute authority of another, but in reality we can do nothing apart from God. All that we possess and have to offer Him, including our praise, originates in God! We can give Him nothing that He hasn't first given us.

B. The Object of our Praise – [even praise unto our God.](#) David was thankful for one thing and that was the Lord. He knew that his situation was hopeless until God showed up. He would've still been bound in the pit had God not delivered Him. God alone was worthy of David's praise. He alone had met his need.

- That is something that we need to be reminded of in our day. I don't think that we offer praise to others intentionally, but often we will make more of the abilities of men and what they have done for us than we do the goodness and blessings of God. He must be the focus and object of our praise. He alone has saved and forgiven us. He alone provides the blessings that we enjoy. May we be careful to ensure that our praise is offered to the Creator rather than the creature that God created!

C. The Oasis of our Praise – I couldn't help but notice when David offered praise unto the Lord, he no longer is focused on the pit or the problems. His praise had lifted him above the cares and difficulties of life. Praise unto the Lord offered an oasis, a resting place, from the despair that he faced.

- I don't know of anything that is more therapeutic to our souls than praise and worship of our Lord. It is possible to praise your way out of a valley. I am not talking about praising the abilities of the flesh, but praising the Lord in such a way that life's cares vanish and we are caught up in the goodness and glory of God!

➤ Lastly we see:

VII. Our Purpose (3b) – [And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.](#) The praise of David had a profound impact on those who heard it. He had faced great difficulty, of which others were aware, and his praise to God made a difference in their lives. We need to be reminded of our obligation to praise and magnify the Lord. That is why we are here, to testify of Him. That is our purpose in life, to exalt the Savior. Consider our purpose in praise:

A. It is Visible – [many shall see it.](#) As I said, David was surrounded by those who witnessed his worship of the Lord after he was delivered. They saw David recognize the Lord and praise Him.

- I have said many times that we don't live in a bubble. Our lives impact others. The world sees the lives we live and they hear the testimonies that we present. I have often been challenged and encouraged by the worship of others. The Christian has no greater witness to the world than when we rejoice in times of adversity. That proclaims to the world our faith and confidence in the Lord we serve!

B. It is Vivid – [many shall see it, and fear.](#) David's praise brought enlightenment and conviction to the hearts of those around him. His praise caused them to search their own hearts and see where they stood with God. The obedient praise of the Lord caused others to have a reverent fear of the holy God.

- If we are to expect others to live for the Lord and look to Him, then we as His children must set the example. We must be willing to submit to Him and offer our praise even when we are in a trial or valley. Often the lives of people are the best witness to the world. Many would never pick up the Bible and read a portion of Scripture, but they do watch the lives of those around them. We have a wonderful opportunity to witness for the Lord simply by offering Him our praise and living submitted to His will.

C. It is Valuable – [many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust the Lord](#). David's praise caused others to trust in the Lord. Maybe he encouraged those who already knew Jehovah to lean upon Him in times of need. Maybe there were those who had not yet recognized Him as Lord and placed their trust in Him due to David's praise. Whatever the case, David's praise was valuable in that it pointed others to the Lord and they trusted in Him.

- We cannot underestimate the value of a life lived for the Lord and praise that is offered unto Him. I want to do all that I can, in whatever capacity I can, to reach others for Christ.
- Living for the Lord and praising Him is not without benefit. Someone among us may be going through a situation similar to yours and find encouragement in your praise. A friend or loved one may not know the Lord but are pointed toward Him by your obedience and worship. We just need to be consistent with our praise and our commitment to living for Christ!

I think that you would agree that these verses are rich in truth for all believers. We have been given much in the Lord. We have an obligation to offer Him the praise that He is due and seek to be a blessing and help to those around us.

Is there a need in your life today? If so I would encourage you to seek the Lord and offer Him praise. Even in the valley God is good, and even then He is deserving of our worship.

Maybe you are here and you remain bound in the pit of sin. If so Jesus wants to lift you out of the miry clay and place you in the marvelous way. He stands ready to save your soul and place you upon the Rock.