

Two weeks ago, we looked at the first three verses of Psalm 40 and we learned that when

## **WHEN GOD ANSWERS PRAYER, HE**

- I. **KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE FACING**  
**HE KNOWS YOU ARE WAITING**  
**HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**  
**HE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE**
- II. **SAVES YOU FROM WHAT YOU ARE FACING**  
**HE HEARS YOUR CRY**  
**HE LIFTS YOU OUT OF THE MUD**
- III. **GIVES YOU SOMETHING YOU DON'T DESERVE**  
**HE GIVES YOU SECURITY AND BELONGING**  
**HE GIVES YOU PURPOSE**  
**HE GIVES YOU A HEART OF PRAISE**

Last week we looked at verses 4-10 of Psalm 40 and we learned about

## **WHAT GOD WANTS AND DOES NOT WANT FROM US!**

- I. **WHAT GOD DOES NOT WANT FROM US!**  
**GOD DOES NOT WANT FAME WORSHIP**  
**GOD DOES NOT WANT FALSE WORSHIP**  
**GOD DOES NOT WANT FAKE WORSHIP**
- II. **WHAT GOD DOES WANT FROM US!**  
**GOD WANTS OUR TRUST**  
**GOD WANTS OUR WONDER**  
**GOD WANTS OUR WHOLEHEARTED COMMITMENT**  
**GOD WANTS OUR TESTIMONY**
- III. **WHY DOES GOD NOT WANT & WANT THESE THINGS**  
**BECAUSE THIS PASSAGE IS ALL ABOUT JESUS**

Today I want us to see what verse 11-17 have to say to us.

*v11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me. v12 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. v13 Be pleased, O LORD, to save me; O LORD, come quickly to help me. v14 May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. v15 May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be appalled at their own shame. v16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "The LORD be exalted!" v17 Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay. Psalms 40:11-17*

# WHAT WE NEED BECAUSE WE ARE “POOR AND NEEDY”

## BECAUSE WE ARE POOR AND NEEDY:

### I. WE MUST BEG GOD FOR HELP

#### 1.1 WE MUST BEG GOD TO EXTEND MERCY TO US

*v11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me.*

Anybody who has ever been caught doing something wrong, will know why we need mercy.

E.g. Caught cheating. – Mrs Radue – Xhosa exam.

#### **WHY DO WE NEED MERCY?**

- 1. We are Guilty and deserve punishment.**
- 2. We cannot defend ourselves against an all-powerful God.**
- 3. We only God can truly alleviate suffering and bring comfort.**

#### WE MUST BEG GOD TO EXTEND MERCY TO US

#### 1.2 WE MUST BEG GOD TO PROTECT US WITH HIS LOVE

*v11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me.*

The Hebrew word for LOVE is “HESED” – Loving-Kindness.

One of the signs of God’s LOVE toward Israel was his Protection of them.

*Ezra 9:9 “Though we are slaves, our God has not deserted us in our bondage. He has shown us kindness in the sight of the kings of Persia: He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins, and he has given us a wall of protection in Judah and Jerusalem.”*

*Psalms 68:4-5 Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds--his name is the LORD--and rejoice before him. v5 A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.*

*Psalms 91:14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*

#### WE MUST BEG GOD TO EXTEND MERCY TO US

#### WE MUST BEG GOD TO PROTECT US WITH HIS LOVE

#### 1.3 WE MUST BEG GOD TO PROTECT US WITH HIS TRUTH

*v11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD; may your love and your truth always protect me*

In the true “Lord’s Prayer”, when he prays for the disciples and us, he said:

*John 17:14-17 I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. v15 My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. v16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. v17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

## **HOW DO WE DO THIS?**

*Ephesians 6:13-14 Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. v14 **Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,***

We cannot be led astray, if we hide His Word in our hearts and allow them to guide us through life.

- I. **BECAUSE WE ARE POOR AND NEEDY, WE MUST BEG GOD FOR HELP**  
**WE MUST BEG GOD TO EXTEND MERCY TO US**  
**WE MUST BEG GOD TO PROTECT US WITH HIS LOVE**  
**WE MUST BEG GOD TO PROTECT US WITH HIS TRUTH**

## **BECAUSE WE ARE POOR AND NEEDY:**

### II. **WE MUST ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS**

#### 2.1 **BECAUSE WE ARE MORE SINFUL THAN WE ADMIT**

*v12 **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.*

The Apostle Paul explains our condition most clearly in the Book of Romans.

*Romans 7:14-24 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. v15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. v16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. v17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. v18 I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature.[3] For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. v19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do - this I keep on doing. v20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. v21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. v22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; v23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. **v24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?***

## WE MUST ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS

### BECAUSE WE ARE MORE SINFUL THAN WE ADMIT

## WE MUST ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS

### 2.2 BECAUSE WE ARE SOMETIMES BLIND TO OUR OWN SIN

*v12 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.*

David is the best example of this condition.

In his sin with Bathsheba and murder of Uriah the Hittite David was blind to the darkness of his sin. We David did was quite acceptable among the Kings of the Ancient Near East. In fact, it was considered an honour to surrender you wife to a King. BUT DAVID SINNED IN THE EYES OF THE LORD. It took a story from Nathan the Prophet to make David realise he had sinned.

Jesus called the Pharisees, BLIND GUIDES.

## WE MUST ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS

### BECAUSE WE ARE MORE SINFUL THAN WE ADMIT

### BECAUSE WE ARE SOMETIMES BLIND TO OUR OWN SIN

## WE MUST ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS

### 2.3 BECAUSE OUR SIN WILL ACHIEVE NOTHING FOR US

*v12 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.***

The BIBLE is very clear. Listen to Paul in Romans 6

*Romans 6:20-23 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. v21 **What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!** v22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. v23 **For the wages of sin is death,** but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*1 John 1:8-10 **If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. v9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. v10 **If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.*****

## **BECAUSE WE ARE POOR AND NEEDY**

### **I. WE MUST BEG GOD FOR HELP**

**WE MUST BEG GOD TO EXTEND MERCY TO US  
WE MUST BEG GOD TO PROTECT US WITH HIS LOVE  
WE MUST BEG GOD TO PROTECT US WITH HIS TRUTH**

### **II WE MUST ASK GOD FOR FORGIVENESS**

**BECAUSE WE ARE MORE SINFUL THAN WE ADMIT  
BECAUSE WE ARE SOMETIMES BLIND TO OUR OWN SIN  
BECAUSE OUR SIN WILL ACHIEVE NOTHING FOR US**

## **BECAUSE WE ARE POOR AND NEEDY:**

### **III. WE MUST TRUST GOD TO DEAL WITH OUR ENEMIES**

*v14 May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. v15 May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!" be appalled at their own shame.*

David is writing these verses prophetically. For in Christ, every enemy is defeated. We have no power in ourselves to overcome the evil one, but in Christ, we need fear no one.

*Exodus 23:20-22 "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. v21 Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him. v22 If you listen carefully to what he says and do all that I say, **I will be an enemy to your enemies and will oppose those who oppose you.***

*Deuteronomy 20:1 When you go to war against your enemies and see horses and chariots and an army greater than yours, **do not be afraid of them, because the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt, will be with you.***

*1 Corinthians 15:25-26 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. v26 **The last enemy to be destroyed is death.***

Jesus turns these verses on their head:

*Luke 6:27-29 "But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, v28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. v29 If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also.*

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- III. **WE MUST TRUST GOD TO DEAL WITH OUR ENEMIES**

**BECAUSE WE ARE POOR AND NEEDY:**

- IV. **WE MUST FALL ON OUR KNEES IN WORSHIP**

*v16 But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation always say, "The LORD be exalted!" v17 Yet I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, do not delay.*

The ultimate expression of surrender is WORSHIP.

We are reminded in Philippians that all will one day surrender to Jesus. YOU CAN DO NOTHING BETTER THAN DO THAT NOW.

*Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, v10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, v11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

## **Conclusion**

### **WHAT WE NEED BECAUSE WE ARE "POOR AND NEEDY"**

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