

Week of June 28, 2021: Psalm 40



Discussion Questions Set #1

“I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. 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.” (Psalm 27:1-2)

God made himself known to all people in the natural world “so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us” (Acts 17:27).

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)

1. Why is it significant that God reveals Himself as a “saving” God? What does this tell us about Him? What does this tell us about ourselves?
2. Psalm 40 indicates that God “turned to” David. What does this suggest about God’s orientation – and His proximity according to Acts 17:27 - towards people? Why might this be significant as we think about the salvation God extends to us?
3. Our above passages suggest two types of seeking – that we ought to seek God and that God seeks the lost? How are these two positions balanced in the life of the follower of Jesus?
4. Discuss the place of “waiting patiently for the Lord” within one’s salvation. What place does waiting play?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“My sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head ...” (Psalm 40:12)

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9)

“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.” (Psalm 40:17)

1. Why is it significant that David acknowledges that the slimy pit in which he found himself trapped was largely of his own making?
2. Why is a clear understanding of our sinfulness (our depravity) key to understanding the significance of God’s saving of us from “the slimy pit”?
3. Discuss how a culturally prevalent “victim mentality” affects our interpretation/understanding of such verses.

Discussion Questions Set #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.” (Psalm 40:3)

“Proclaim [God’s] saving acts ... speak of [His] faithfulness and saving help ... [reveal His] love and faithfulness from the great assembly.” (Psalm 40:9-10)

In sermon, it was suggested that David recognized his being plucked from the miry pit of individual sin and his being placed upon a firm foundation with others whom God has also saved. It is therefore from this place of redeemed community that witness to the Saving One is given. We have each/all been given an evangelistic salvation song.

1. What difference does it make that we are saved for a purpose?
2. Why is it important to recognize that we are lifted from our pit and established on a firm foundation to sing our salvation song?
3. What are some practical ways that we can “sing our salvation song”:
 - a. As individuals?
 - b. As churches?
 - c. As a larger Christian community?