

The Trusting Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 40

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I. Jesus in the Psalms (cf. Heb 10:5-10)

Jesus sings the Psalms as Prophet, Priest, and King. He sings them as our _____, the One who reveals to us the Word and will of God. He sings them as our _____, the One who makes atonement for our sin by becoming sin for us and sacrificing Himself on our behalf. And He sings them as our _____, the One who rules and reigns over all creation for the benefit of His people, the Church.

II. The Trusting Man

A. Praise for Deliverance Past (1-10)

1. The innumerable graces of God toward those who trust Him (1-5)
2. The nature of trusting God (6-8)
 - Trust is not ritual performance.
 - Trust is an inclination of the heart that sees God as infinitely reliable.
 - Trust is the root of obedience.
3. The praise that issues from those who trust God (9-10)

B. Prayer for Deliverance Future (11-17 cf. Ps 70)

1. Deliver me from evil and iniquity! (11-13)
2. Overthrow the wicked & vindicate the righteous! (14-16)

This twofold prayer is the equivalent of *Thy kingdom come!* When we pray for God's kingdom to come, we are praying that Satan's kingdom, the kingdom of darkness would be destroyed. We cannot pray for the advance of God's kingdom without willing the destruction of Satan's kingdom and of those who would build it up.

3. Renewed cry for deliverance (17)

III. Application

A. The Necessity of Gratitude

1. What is gratitude?

Our English word *gratitude* comes from the Latin word *gratia*, meaning _____. John Piper explains the connection well in his book *Future Grace*.

“...gratitude exists because sometimes things come to us “gratis” – without price or payment. When that happens, we should feel a pleasant sense of the worth of what we’ve received and the goodwill behind it. This pleasant sense is what we call gratitude. Then, spontaneously rising from this pleasant sense, come expressions of delight. We feel constrained with joy to acknowledge the gift and the goodwill behind it, and to express how good we feel about the gift and the heart of the giver.”

2. Why is gratitude necessary? (cf. Phil 4:6-7)

Gratitude is necessary because we live in a world charged with the grace of God, because *every good and perfect gift comes down from above, from the Father of lights.*

The culmination of our salvation is praise (3, 9-10). Paul writes to the Ephesians that God *“predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace...”* (1:5-6).

B. The Danger of Gratitude

1. The Debtor’s Ethic

The debtor’s ethic says, “Because you have done something good for me, I feel indebted to do something good for you.” This impulse is not what gratitude was designed to produce... What’s gone wrong? It’s not wrong to feel gratitude when someone gives us a gift. The trouble starts with the impulse that now we owe a “gift”. What this feeling does is turn gifts into legal currency. (Future Grace, 32)

2. Should we pay God back? (cf. Num 14:11; Heb 3:19)

Biblically, our obedience is not to be motivated by gratitude but _____. God’s past acts of faithfulness teach us to trust God for the future.

C. The Call to Trust the Lord (cf. Ps 116:1-2, 12-14)

Psalm 116:1-2 - I love the LORD, because He has heard My voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, Therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live... What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me? I will take up the cup of salvation, And call upon the name of the LORD.

IV. Conclusion