

## **SOUNDTRACK: Encountering Jesus in the Songs of Scripture**

### **Week 10: Psalm 41**

**Introduction:** Betrayal is at the heart of this psalm.

If you could capture all the feelings that come when you are desperately sick in bed make up the tone of this psalm. Adding to this misery, you become the victims of slander and vicious verbal attacks from people who hate us even as we lie down in our weakened condition. Some of these people pretend to be your friends, but talk terrible about you when out of your sight. This pitiable case gets even worse as you find yourself abandoned and despised by even your most trusted friends. This elicits feelings of loss, defeat, and pain from the deepest recesses of your heart. Abandoned by friends and victimized by others, you have but one thing you can do: seek the favor and mercy of God.

**The Big Picture:** In spite of human betrayal God is faithful!

#### **Discussion:**

##### **Share:**

- Think of a time you have been betrayed. How did you feel? Where did you feel most abandoned? How did that situation resolve?

##### **Discuss:**

##### **Sermon Review:**

- Re-read Psalm 41.
- Review the sermon from this week. Write down any questions or thoughts that stand out to you as you review the sermon together. Discuss them as a group.  
Link: <https://www.cornerstonecrystal.org/messages/>

- There are three very unique concepts in this psalm:
  - Helping the Poor/Defending the Weak
  - Human Betrayal
  - God's Faithfulness Experienced in Healing

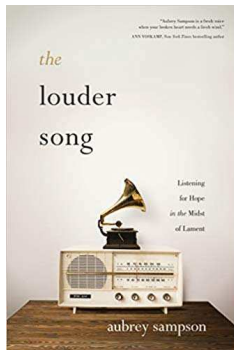
How do you think they fit together as one prayer or song?

- Of the human characters in this psalm, whom do you best identify within yourself:
  - Weak in need of help?
  - Sick in need of healing?
  - Betrayed in need of restoration?

How do you need God to help you through this?

- The psalmist seems to allude to the idea that he deserves God' healing (vv. 3, 10-12). Do you think God is obligated to heal and restore? Why or why not? How does God's intervention shape our view of him?
- Pastor Jeremy said that God answers all prayer—either through provision or protection. Why do we have a hard time hearing God's "no" as protection or provision?

### Further Exploration on this Topic:



*The Louder Song: Listening for Hope in the Midst of Lament* by Aubrey Simpson

**From the Publisher:** Lament helps us hear God's louder song.

When you're in the midst of suffering, you want answers for the unanswerable, resolutions to the unresolvable. You want to tie up pain in a pretty little package and hide it under the bed, taking it out only when you feel strong enough to face it. But grief won't be contained. Grief disobeys. Grief explodes. In one breath, you may be able to say that God's got this and all will be well. In the next, you might descend into fatalism. No pretending. Here, you are raw before God, an open wound.

There is a pathway through this suffering. It's not easy, but God will use it to lead you toward healing. This path is called lament. Lament leads us between the Already and the Not Yet. Lament minds the gap between current hopelessness and coming hope. Lament anticipates new creation but also acknowledges the painful reality of now. Lament recognizes the existence of evil and suffering—without any sugarcoating—while simultaneously declaring that suffering will not have the final say.

In the midst of your darkest times, you will discover that lament leads you back to a place of hope—not because lamenting does anything magical, but because God sings a louder song than suffering ever could, a song of renewal and restoration..

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Louder-Song-Listening-Midst-Lament/dp/1631469029>