

Day 32 Written by John Guerra

Psalm 40: 1-3: “I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. ² He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps. ³ He has put a new song in my mouth— Praise to our God; Many will see *it* and fear, And will trust in the LORD.”

One time a warden asked a man on death row what he would like to eat for his last meal. The inmate said, “I would like to have a huge piece of watermelon!” The warden said, “You must be kidding! This is December. Watermelons have not been planted, let alone harvested!” The inmate said, “That’s okay, I don’t mind waiting!”

I usually think negatively about waiting. I don’t like waiting and I hate for anyone to have to wait on me! But, we don’t mind waiting when we’re delaying something that is unpleasant! I mean, “Who has ever told their mother-in-law, “I hate that you’re postponing your month-long visit with us!” However, when waiting postpones something that we want to do, that’s a different story!

The key to waiting on the Lord is “waiting patiently” and “trusting implicitly.” It seems like every generation coins its own phrase for times when things don’t go well or right. Years ago, the catch-phrase was “life is the pits!” In more recent years, “What a bummer! Or “What a pain!”

Now, sometimes we spout out these succinct sayings when simply irritated or exasperated and just having a bad day. However, our text is talking about those life-situations where our resources (physically, emotionally, mentally, financially, etc.) are exhausted or just about to be and we find ourselves “between a rock and a hard place” or desperate! David compared his distressing situation to a “horrible pit.” “Horrible” – uproar, tumultuous rushing, desolate, lay waste and “pit” – deep hole, prison, cistern “filled with miry clay.” To him, the sticky had captured him and was seeking to suck him down to a certain death. The clay gave him no traction, so all his efforts were futile and exhausting.

How deep those “horrible pits” in life, those black holes of the soul that seem bent on dragging us down into the abyss. Yet, even in his miserable and increasingly hopeless condition, David still cried out to the Lord. “He inclined”- “to bend over, to stretch out, to bow down, reach toward – “turned unto him and heard his cry.” This is a beautiful picture of an omnipotent God in grace and love cupping His ear to hear our cry and then reaching down to pluck us out of the “dungeon of despair.” He does three things: 1) He lifts me up out of the slimy clay. He does what only He can do: He lifts me up. 2) He then “sets our feet upon a rock and establishes our going,” or gives us a firm place to stand. Essentially, He “plucks us, . . . Plants us, and points us!” He never rescues us as brand from the burning” so He can set us on the shelf to do nothing. Instead, He lovingly lifts us from the sinking sand, plants our feet on the Rock of Ages and gives us a reason to live, a purpose of bringing glory to Him. Then, 3) He “puts a new song in our mouths, even a song of praise unto our great God.” Instead of down-in-the-mouth, melancholy melodies, He teaches our hearts to compose “anointed anthems” of praise. Pity the person who’s been brought from darkness into light, yet never erupts in spontaneous praise over such a great salvation. Never mind if your song is off-pitch to your neighbor’s ear; if it comes from a heart of sincere gratitude, it’s always sweet music to our Father’s ear. Praise Him for His plucking and

planting in your life. You might find others wanting to join in with you, “many shall see it and fear and shall trust in the Lord.” (vs. 3).

In this season of prayer, we are asking the Lord to lead us to be the church that He wants us to be. He has saved us out of the miry clay of unbelief and set our feet on the rock of faith in our Lord and Savior, but are we singing the new song and are we living a life of faith, obedience and grace? If we are, are we walking in faith and trusting the Lord in all things? Are we trusting Him for today and tomorrow? If we seek Him, we will find Him! If we follow Him, we will experience His faithfulness! If we trust Him, He will hold us up, so don't give up!