



BOOK OF  
**PSALMS**  
CHAPTER 141

# Psalms

**Inspired**

**songs and poems**

**that depict the heart of**

**the saints in each**

**season of life.**

# Psalm 141

## Notes for us...

- **The continuity w/Psalm 19:12-14**
- **It helps answer a difficult question brought up by Romans 6-8.**

# Psalm 141

**<sup>1</sup> O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!  
Give ear to my voice when I call to you!**

**<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be counted as incense  
before you, and the lifting up of my hands  
as the evening sacrifice!**

**<sup>3</sup> Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;  
keep watch over the door of my lips!**

**<sup>4</sup> Do not let my heart incline to any evil, to  
busy myself with wicked deeds in  
company with men who work iniquity,**

# Psalm 141

and let me not eat of their delicacies!

<sup>5</sup> Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it. Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds. <sup>6</sup> When their judges are thrown over the cliff, then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant. <sup>7</sup> As when one plows and breaks up the earth, so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.

# Psalm 141

**<sup>8</sup> But my eyes are toward you, O God, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! <sup>9</sup> Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers! <sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.**

# Road Map

- **Verse 1-2**
  - Drawing near to the Lord for help
  - Aiming to please God
- **Verses 3-5**
  - The place where David needs help
    - His mouth
    - His heart, deeds, & company
    - His desires
      - What not to desire and what to desire
- **Verses 6-10**
  - David's prayer about the wicked and ultimate judgment

# Psalm 141:1-2

**<sup>1</sup> O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me!  
Give ear to my voice when I call to you!**

**<sup>2</sup> Let my prayer be counted as incense  
before you, and the lifting up of my hands  
as the evening sacrifice!**

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- David is asking for God's presence and help. – Mutually coming together.
- David's desire is to please the Lord.



# Psalm 141:3-5

**Question: What is it that David needs help with, that in verses 1-2 he calls out to the Lord?**

**Answer: The pursuit of righteousness.**

Matthew 5:6

Romans 7:24

# Psalm 141:3-5

**<sup>3</sup> Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth;  
keep watch over the door of my lips!**

**<sup>4</sup> Do not let my heart incline to any  
evil, to busy myself with wicked  
deeds in company with men  
who work iniquity,**

# Psalm 141:3-5

**and let me not eat of their delicacies!**

**<sup>5</sup> Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness;  
let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.**

# Psalm 141:3-5

## David's requests

- **V. 3 – Help with his words**
- **V. 4a – Help with heart**
- **V. 4b-5 – Help with desires**
  - What not to desire (that which the world desires)
  - What to desire (the rebuke of the wicked)

# Psalm 141:3-5

## David's requests

- **All in the pursuit of righteousness**
  - **Matthew 5:6**
- **In recognition of a war with sin**
  - **Genesis 4:7, Romans 7:24**
- **Displaying conflicting desires**
  - **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> layer desires... James 1:14, Romans 7:15-23**

# Sin and Desire in the Text

- **James 1:13-15 – We sin because we desire/want to**
- **Romans 7:15-23 – We sin when we don't want to...**
- **Conclusion: We have multiple (a least two) layers of desires.**
  - **What we want and what we want to want**

# Psalm 141:3-5

## V. 3 – Help with his words

**Mathew 12:33-37 – Judged for our words**

**James 3:1-12 – Our words steer our life**

**Ephesians 4:29, 5:3-5, & 19-20, Colossians 3:8-9, 4:5-6, Hebrews 10:24-25, 2 Timothy 2:23-26, Romans 1:28-32, Proverbs 18:4-8, 19:21, 16:28, 2 Corinthians 12:20**

# Psalm 141:3-5

**V. 4a – Help with heart**

**Don't let my heart incline to evil ...**

**Keeping busy with evil deeds, in  
bad company.**

**Company → Focus → Passions**

**1 Corinthians 15:33**





# Psalm 141:3-5

**V. 4b-5 – Help with desires**

**“...and let me not eat of their (men who work iniquity) delicacies!”**

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**Help me to not desire what they pursue for satisfaction.**

**What we resolve to**

**desire matters**

# Why our Desires Matter

## 1. It is explicitly stated in Scripture

- Matthew 5:21-30
- Exodus 20:1-17 – Deuteronomy 6:4

## 2. There is a relationship between heart and hands

- Luke 6:45, James 3:11-12 – The tide

## 3. What we resolve to desire impacts relationships

- Husband & Wife
- Resolve to desire sin is a statement about what is satisfying (and about God's value and integrity)
- Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-31, 1 John 2:1-6

# Psalm 141:3-5

**V. 4b-5 – Help with desires**

**Let a righteous man strike me—it is a kindness; let him rebuke me—it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it.**

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**A desire for righteousness can't be detached from a desire for conviction and is undergirded by sober humility.**

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# Psalm 141:5b-7

**Yet my prayer is continually against their evil deeds. <sup>6</sup> When their judges are thrown over the cliff, then they shall hear my words, for they are pleasant. <sup>7</sup> As when one plows and breaks up the earth, so shall our bones be scattered at the mouth of Sheol.**

# Psalm 141:5b-7

**Subject (v. 4) – men who work iniquity**

**David prays against “their evil deeds”**

**That God would make an example of their “judges” or “rulers” ... for their good**

# Psalm 141:8-10

**<sup>8</sup> But my eyes are toward you, O GOD, my Lord; in you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless! <sup>9</sup> Keep me from the trap that they have laid for me and from the snares of evildoers! <sup>10</sup> Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by safely.**

# Psalm 141:8-10

**David ends with a statement of where his trust resides in being kept in these matters.**



# Psalm 141

**Verses 1-2 – Petition for help...**

**Verses 3 – With words**

**Verse 4 – With heart**

**Verse 4 – With desires -**

**Verse 5 – With desires +**

**Verse 6-7 – With the wicked**

**Verse 8-10 – Keep me safe**



# Questions

- Did anything jump out to you in the text or sermon?
- David starts with prayer that shows a need or dependence on God. It was noted that humans tend to miss this point by either feeling capable and independent or feeling hopeless. Do you wrestle with either of these temptations?
- David asks for help with his words. How do you use your words?
- David asks for help with his heart, deeds, and company. How are you doing here?
- David asks for help with his desires? How are you doing here? Do you fight sin at this level?
- David desire righteous rebuke. How well do you do when confronted by others about your sin?