

OH LORD, BE GRACIOUS TO ME
Sermon Series: “Living The Psalms Together”
(A year-long study through the Psalms)

Psalm 41

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Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray him, ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, do you wash my feet?” ⁷ Jesus answered him, “What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.” ⁸ Peter said to him, “You shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered him, “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me.” ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you.” ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, “Not all of you are clean.” ¹² When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, “Do you understand what I have done to you? ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶ Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. ¹⁸ **I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’** ¹⁹ I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he. ²⁰ Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives the one I send receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.” **John 13:1-21 (ESV)**

A SPIRITUAL CHECK-LIST IN TIMES OF STRUGGLE

1. HOW’S MY INTEGRITY WHEN DEALING WITH OTHERS? (vss. 1-4)

“Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; ² the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. ³ The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health. ⁴ As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!”
Psalm 41:1-4 (ESV)

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.” **Matthew 5:7 (ESV)**

“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸ give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.” **Luke 6:37-38 (ESV)**

“As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.” **John 9:1-3 (ESV)**

“If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.” **Psalm 66:18 (ESV)**

2. HAVE I BEEN BETRAYED BY OTHERS? (vss. 5-9)

My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die, and his name perish?” ⁶ And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad. ⁷ All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. ⁸ They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.” ⁹ Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me. **Psalm 41:5-9 (ESV)**

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” **Luke 1:31-33 (ESV)**

⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” ⁶ He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. ⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.” **John 12:4-8 (ESV)**

3. HOW IS MY PRAYER FOR THE MERCY OF GOD? (vss. 10-12)

“But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! ¹¹ By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. ¹² But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.” **Psalm 41:10-12 (ESV)**

“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.” **2 Samuel 7:16 (ESV)**

4. HOW IS MY LIFE GLORIFYING GOD? (vs. 13)

“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.”
Psalm 41:13 (ESV)

⁷“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread, ¹²and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. ¹⁴For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” **Matthew 6:7-15 (ESV)**

Ask Yourself: What could my life be like if I would consider this check-list in my life? Do I believe it could draw me closer to God through His mercy? Do I believe He could protect me from my enemies? Do I believe He can use my life for His glory? Do I believe it could change how I treat others?