

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

Saved from the Pit! (Psalm 40)

Sermon Outline

Introduction - The sheep who kept getting stuck.

1. Remembering God's Mercy
2. Responding to God's Mercy
3. Reaching for God's Mercy

Scripture References

- *John 21:25 - "And there were also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."*
- *Psalm 51:16-17 - "For you do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart--these, O God, You will not despise."*
- *1 Samuel 15:22 - "So Samuel said: 'Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.'"*
- *Hebrews 10:8-10 - "Previously saying, 'Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure in them' (which are offered according to the law), then He said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.' He takes away the first that He may establish the second. By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."*
- *Romans 12:1 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."*
- *Proverbs 24:16 - "For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity."*
- *Luke 17:4 - "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."*

Reflection Questions

- There are many pits in the Christian life: sin, defeat, despair, difficulties. What pits are most prevalent for you?
- How have you seen the Lord's mercies in the past? What help can you have with today's struggles in light of those past mercies?
- What parts of your life have you labeled "Off Limits" to God? What would it look like to take away those boundaries and live wholeheartedly for Jesus?
- Why do you think the Lord so often uses the image of *sheep* for us?
- Do you get discouraged at the constant struggle of pursuing Christ? When you fall down are you tempted to stay down?
- Look up the definitions of *parole* and *pardon*. What is the difference? Which one do you think more reflects how God relates to us as His people?
- Take a moment to thank the Lord for the ways He has been merciful to you, even for repeated offenses!