



The Potter's Help

Psalm 40:1-5

Sunday, June 2, 2024

Introduction:

“The ancients sometimes constructed a prison in the field that was nothing more than a deep pit filled with slime ringed by slippery walls. If captors wanted to torture a prisoner, they might put a wild beast or a venomous snake in the pit. The only way that he could be delivered was for someone outside the pit to pull him out.”

- Adrian Rogers

I. There is the coming of the Potter for the clay. (V.1)

John 4:4 *And he must needs go through Samaria.*

Romans 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*

A. His coming is timely in the providence of our lives.

Psalm 40:1 *I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me,*

B. His coming is a treasure to the preservation of our lives.

Psalm 40:1 . . . *and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*

Psalm 69:2 *I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.*

“David reported that the Lord bent down and listened to his cry. That God reaches down to the depths where we are is wonderful.”

- Jerry Vines

II. There is the conquering of the Potter over the clay. (V.2)

A. He must conquer us to loose us from sin.

Psalm 40:2 *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit,*

Why is it so hard to loosen a soul from the mire of this world?

- ◆ Because we have given our bodies over to the habits and the addictions of the world.
- ◆ Because we have given our minds and hearts over to the emotions and sympathies of the world.
- ◆ Because we have intimate and rudimentary connections to this world that we don't think we can live without.
- ◆ Because the claims and the trends of this world hold sway over the decisions we make.

B. He must conquer us to lift us from sin.

Psalm 40:2 . . . *out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.*

Romans 2:4 *Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

“Christ fights the war to conquer with the weapons of grace, mercy, and love.”

God's loosening and lifting can be seen in the story of Lot in the city of Sodom.

- ◆ God begins the process of loosening and lifting by getting us to see the effect of sin.
Genesis 19:5 *And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.*
- ◆ God gives warning of coming destruction that sin will cause.
Genesis 19:13 *For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD;*
- ◆ Sometimes one has to be loosened from family.
Genesis 19:14 *And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law . . . But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.*
- ◆ Sometimes a person has to be loosened from personal sentimentality.
Genesis 19:16 *And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, . . . the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.*

III. There is the claiming of the Potter over the clay. (V.3-5)

A. He claims our tongues through the praise of our lips.

Psalm 40:3 *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. (V.4) Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.*

“When God rescues us, He makes our lives a testimony, showing others what He can do for them because of what He’s done for us.”

- Jerry Vines

B. He claims our trust through the power of his labor.

Psalm 40:5 *Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.*