Shalom AZ Ministries

In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption

"My Heart… My House… My Life… Like YOURS, LORD"

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Devotion and Discussion Questions

Key Texts (TLV): Psalms 11, 41, 101

It is easy to recognize how much we need the Lord when life is difficult. When the foundations beneath us seem to be crumbling, when someone we trusted disappoints us, or when things simply do not happen according to our timetable, we cry out, "Lord, where are You? Why aren't You doing something?" But another question must become central: "Lord, what are You doing in me?" Do we want Him merely to change our circumstances, or to transform our character? "Lord, I want my heart to be like Yours. I want my house, everything You have entrusted to me, to be like Your house. I want my life to reflect Yours."

That is the thread running through these three psalms of David. They take us through threats, sickness, betrayal, and the daily responsibility of living God's ways. The Psalms remind us that walking with ADONAI does not mean avoiding seasons of pain. Sometimes those seasons last longer than expected. If faith rests only on God doing what we want, when we want it, our faith will be shaken. But if our desire is to know Him, trust Him, and become like Him, we can learn to walk steadily even when everything around us feels uncertain.

1. LORD, MAKE MY HEART LIKE YOURS (PS. 11)

David opens with a declaration: "In ADONAI I have taken shelter" (Ps. 11:1). Yet voices around him are telling him to flee like a bird. The wicked have bent their bows; they are shooting from the shadows at the upright in heart. And then comes that unsettling question: "If our foundations are destroyed, what should the righteous do?" (Ps. 11:3). What do we do when everything we depended upon seems to be in ruins? David does not deny the danger. He lifts his eyes: "ADONAI is in His holy Temple. ADONAI's throne is in heaven" (Ps. 11:4). The Lord is King, and He sees. Even what happens in the shadows is visible to Him. He examines like someone testing metal.

And what is He looking for? The very character that belongs to Him. David declares, "For ADONAI is righteous—He loves justice" (Ps. 11:7). The Hebrew emphasizes that because ADONAI is righteous, He loves righteousness. He delights to see His character formed in us. His holiness encompasses all that He is—loving, truthful, merciful, gracious, just, and righteous. There is no one like Him! So our prayer cannot simply be, "Lord, protect me from what is happening around me." It must also be, "Examine what is happening *within* me. When I am pressured, do Your righteousness and Your love come forth? Take my heart and form it, my mind and transform it, my will and conform it to Yours." The righteous God loves righteousness. May He find His own character growing in us.

2. LORD, MAKE MY COMPASSION LIKE YOURS (PS. 41)

Psalm 41 opens with a beautiful word*: ashrei*—blessed, happy, content, fortunate. "Blessed (*ashrei*) is the one who considers the wretched—ADONAI will deliver him in the evil day" (Ps. 41:2). The Hebrew word translated "wretched" speaks of the small, the powerless, the ones society regards as insignificant. To consider them means acting with understanding, devotion, and practical concern. And isn't that exactly what the Lord does? He pays attention to those everyone else overlooks. He draws near to the brokenhearted, cares for the widow and orphan, and sees those who have been discarded. The blessed life becomes like Him, attentive to others.

Yet David goes on to describe his own evil day. He is on his sickbed, in weakness and pain. People visit him with pleasant words and then leave to whisper the worst about him. Even a close friend, someone who ate his bread, turns against him. Deliverance did not mean avoiding suffering; to be strengthened on a sickbed, he first had to be there! David cries, "ADONAI, have mercy on me. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You" (Ps. 41:5). He appeals to God's grace and declares that the Lord upholds him in His presence. Yeshua, the Son of David, fully entered into our suffering and knows our pain. As we receive His mercy, will we extend that same mercy? Will we be faithful friends in someone else's difficult season, rather than people who disappear when their need becomes inconvenient?

3. LORD, MAKE MY HOUSE AND LIFE LIKE YOURS (PS. 101)

Psalm 101 takes the desire to resemble ADONAI right into the center of everyday life. David is a king, declaring how he intends to govern what has been entrusted to him. He begins by singing of lovingkindness and justice, and then makes this commitment: "I walk in my house with integrity in my heart" (Ps. 101:2). Not merely in public, but at home, where no one else is watching. The Hebrew idea is tamim: soundness, completeness, wholeness. David wants to be honestly aligned with God's heart. He wants to sing of the Lord's ways and then actually walk in those ways. This isn't for show. It is for real.

As the psalm continues, David rejects worthless things, twisted behavior, slander, pride, and deceit. He looks instead for faithful, trustworthy people who walk in integrity. At times his words sound like the King of kings Himself. And that is the point! David wants the kingdom entrusted to him to reflect the rule and character of the true King. "No one who practices deceit will dwell in my house" (Ps. 101:7). He renews this commitment every morning. What has ADONAI entrusted to us? A home, relationships, responsibilities, influence—and first of all, the kingdom of our own heart. What are we allowing to settle into the center of that house? Our words, what we set before our eyes, and our private treatment of family reveal whose ways we follow. Each morning we must deal honestly with what does not reflect Him.

CONCLUSION

These three psalms bring us to one desire: "Lord, make me more like You." When our foundations shake, may our hearts reveal ***His righteousness*** rather than fear and bitterness. When we encounter suffering, whether our own or someone else's, may we reveal ***His mercy*** rather than selfishness or indifference. And in the center of our homes and daily responsibilities, may we walk with the integrity of ***His kingdom***. We can appear righteous in public while leaving our inner lives untouched. The Lord desires something deeper: outward actions that overflow from a continually transformed heart. He seeks people who genuinely resemble Him.

Is there anger, frustration, pride, deceit, or selfishness that keeps emerging when you are pressed? Is there someone you have overlooked whose needs seem small or inconvenient? Is there something you have allowed into your heart or home that does not belong in the presence of the King? Do not merely resolve to do better. Bring these things honestly before Yeshua. Ask His forgiveness, receive His mercy, and yield to His transforming work. Invite Him into those places you would rather keep hidden. Let this be your sincere surrender: "Lord, take my heart and form it. Take my mind and transform it. Take my will and conform it to Yours. What You love, teach me to love. What You hate, teach me to reject. Let my heart, my house, and my life look more like Yours."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In Psalm 11, how does knowing that ADONAI reigns and sees everything change the way we respond when our foundations seem to be shaken?
2. What is the difference between seeking God mainly for what He can do for us and asking Him to transform who we are?
3. Who around you might feel overlooked or insignificant, and what practical act of care could reflect the compassion described in Psalm 41?
4. What do your words, entertainment choices, and private habits reveal about the atmosphere you are cultivating in your home (Ps. 101)?
5. Where have recent frustrations, pressures, or disappointments exposed a response that does not yet reflect the character of Yeshua?

CLOSING PRAYER

ADONAI, we submit our hearts, our homes, and our lives to You. Thank You that You see us, sustain us, and show us mercy even in difficult seasons. Forgive us for the ways we have sought Your blessings more than Your likeness. Search our hearts and reveal whatever does not reflect Your righteousness, compassion, truth, and love. When we are pressed and tested, cleanse away the frustration, anger, pride, and selfishness that so easily rise within us. Give us eyes to see the overlooked, courage to walk in integrity when no one is watching, and faithfulness to order what You have entrusted to us according to Your ways. Holy Spirit, continue to shape us until the beauty of Yeshua is seen in us more and more, today and every day.

B'Shem Yeshua, In the name of Yeshua, amen.