

Come as You Are

Psalm 40:1-3 NIV “I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the LORD and put their trust in him.” *David is reflecting on his relationship with God and he’s telling us about it. He was stuck and was reduced to a cry to God, and a posture of waiting on God. God heard him, delivered him, put him on a rock, and then gave him a song – a new song, a song he never would have learned without going through this experience. When others hear this song they won’t be drawn to David; they’ll be drawn to trust in the God who saved him.

I. The pit.

- a. A place we can’t get out of ourselves although we’ve tried. Others have given us advice and suggestions but none of it has worked.
 - i. The mud that we’re stuck in could be fear, anger, addiction, depression, or trauma.
 - ii. We’ve tried to get out ourselves – new years resolutions, we’ve read books about, taken steps that have supposedly worked for others but we keep sliding back into the mud.
 - iii. Nothing is left except to cry out and wait for God or give into despair.
- b. David talks later of God’s thoughts toward Him; Psalm 40:5 NASB “Many, LORD my God, are the wonders which You have done, And Your thoughts toward us...” Psalm 139:17-18 NIV “How precious to me are your thoughts, ^[a] God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.” *The guy who didn’t want to come back to church – actually there is someone thinking about you but it’s not us.
- c. Jesus sees you and what you’re stuck in.
 - i. What is He thinking about? Isaiah 30:15-18 NASB “For this is what the Lord ^[a] GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said: “In ^[b] repentance and rest you will be saved, In quietness and trust is your strength.” But you were not willing, And you said, “No, for we will flee on horses!” Therefore you shall flee! “And we will ride on swift *horses!*” Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift. One thousand *will flee* at the threat of one *man*; You will flee at the threat of five, Until you are left like a signal post on a mountain top, And like a flag on a hill. Therefore the LORD ^[c] longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He ^[d] waits on high to have compassion on you....” *He’s waiting for us to run out of our own energy.
 - ii. The father waiting not so he can judge his wayward son, but so that he can redeem him. God’s heart toward us is redemption, not

judgment. Jesus came not to condemn the world but to save the world. (John 3:17)

iii. Come as You Are – *Billy Graham altar calls – millions came to the same song -Just as I am without one plea; but that Thy blood was shed for me; and that Thou bidst me come to Thee, oh Lamb of God I come, I come.

d. Even when we're filled with unseen pride, He has a plan of redemption for us. Luke 22:31-32 ESV “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you,³¹ that he might sift you like wheat, ³²but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”

- i. Simon’s faith is in his own devotion and strength. He needs to slide into the mud to find out where the real rock is.
- ii. 2007 – “a time of abasement.” City Church and revival and awakening – our son didn’t come back to faith; our house didn’t sell; our church split – there was no way out. I began reading books about Abraham Lincoln and the martyrs – all I had was God, but I did have God or rather, He had me.
- iii. Waiting breaks pride – 3 years, 6 years, and two we’re still waiting for. If God can’t deliver you right now, for whatever reason known only to Him, would You give me grace to keep waiting!

II. The rock.

- a. David made his identity in God. Psalm 59:9; 17 ESV “O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress. My God in his steadfast love³³ will meet me...O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.”
- b. Our new identity in Christ. *Not who you’ve been, not the mud you’ve been in, but who God wants to make you and His intention toward you. *Joe’s message last week – forgiven, accepted, and loved because of what Jesus has done for us. Not what we deserve for our sins, but what He wanted to give us because of His grace.
- c. Why do people choose to stay in the mud?
 - i. Sometimes it’s because God is offering a different gift that they’re asking for. John 1:11-12 *Why did His own not accept Him?
 - ii. Sometimes it’s because people don’t want to admit they’re muddy. John 3:19 I refuse to agree with the light because it would expose what I’m doing and what I’m becoming as evil.
 - iii. Sometimes it’s because the enemy accuses us and we agree with him. *Revelation 12:10-11

III. The song.

- a. When we are put on the rock the Spirit puts a new song in us. It's a song you would never have had if you hadn't been in the mud. Jesus is the Hero of this song.
 - i. Peter's first song was about himself. *Camelot – Lancelot's song: "If I had been the partner of Eve we'd be in Eden still."
 - ii. 1 Peter 2:9 ESV "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."
- b. Joining the song He gives us is part of staying on the Rock.
 - i. Psalm 32:6-7 NIV "Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance."
 - ii. "You unravel me, with a melody, you surround me with a song; of deliverance from my enemies until all my fears are gone."
- c. Singing this new song gives hope for those still in the mud – they too can call on Jesus and put their trust in Him.

Salvation and communion.