

January 18

Psalm 40:1-2 (NIV) ¹I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. ²He 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.

A video recently caught my attention. It showed a dog mired up to its ears in pool of mud. All you could see was that small portion of its head. It had begun waling in the mud, not suspecting anything, but, when it reached a certain point, the mud began to pull the dog deeper and deeper. It was impossible for the dog to free itself, so it barked feebly. A man heard the cry and discovered the dog held captive by the mud. He carefully made a path to the dog and began shoveling away the mud. Eventually, he was able to grab the dog and place it on firm ground.

As I watched that video, it felt as if I were watching a video of my life. David graphically tells us that sin is a slimy, mirey pit of mud. When we begin to follow the desires of the flesh, we slowly begin “playing” in that mud. Of course, we have much company, so we tell ourselves we are truly enjoying life. What we do not realize is that, once the “mud” takes hold of us, it will never let go. Slowly but surely, we are dragged deeper and deeper in that pit of sin. Try as we might, we cannot extricate ourselves. We cannot clean away the mud as it stains every area of our lives. When we cry out as that dog did, Jesus hears us. He has been waiting patiently for that call. He lifts us out of that muddy mess. He cleans away the stains of that mud. He restores us and places us on the solid ground of His word. Once we are set free, we have two choices. We can return to the mirey pit that holds us captive, or we can remain with Jesus on solid ground where we can help others find Jesus. Personally, I never want to return to that unforgiving, slimy, muddy pit.