



SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

“He is My Sustainer”

Psalm 40

July 7, 2013 A.M. Worship

He Delivers Me from Destruction & Distress Vs 1-3

I Distinguish Myself in Him Vs 4

He Desires Me Vs 5

He Delights in My Obedience Vs 6-8

I Declare His Greatness Vs 9-10

He Delivers Me From My Sin Vs 11-12

He Defends Me From My Enemies Vs 13-15

I Depend Upon Him Vs 16-17

Our Response:

1. Has there ever been that moment where you have prayed to the Father and asked Him to come into your heart and take control of your life? Would you give Him your heart & life today? Remember it is as simple as **ABC!** **A**dmit to God you are a sinner, **A**sk for His forgiveness, **B**elieve Jesus is God's Son, **C**onfess Him as Savior & **C**ommit Your Life to Him as Lord. (the Boss of your life)
2. Have you asked Christ into your heart but never made it public. Have you not been baptized? You can come & make that decision today public today. Be obedient!
3. Are you a part of a church family? If not, you need one! Is the Lord calling you to Petal FBC today? Why wait any longer? Step over the line and join us in reaching this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ! How is your life praising the Lord? What do you need to thank Him for? How can you praise Him more thoroughly and thoughtfully? Write them down and do them!
4. Would you spend time this week praising Him and thanking Him for the many ways that He has delivered you and taken care of you and watch for the many ways that He will do that this week. Write them down!
5. Want to be blessed this week? Then make the Lord and Him alone your trust and turn to no one but Him!
6. May we live in the truth that God desires me and thinks of me all the time. May I also live out the truth that God desires my obedience more than anything else! Why? Because my obedience demonstrates my love for Him!
7. May you praise Him for His forgiveness and cleansing as you repent and confess any area of where you have fallen short – sinned- and allow Him to deliver you from it. Thank Him as well for defending you from your enemies!
8. May we depend solely upon Him this week and as we do that may we pray for opportunities to faithfully declare how awesome and wonderful a God He is! May we not be a silent Christians this week, but one who boldly proclaims to others that Jesus is the only way to salvation!
9. May our lives reflect the glory of God especially in the difficult moments of our lives!!

SUMMER IN THE PSALMS

“The Lord is My Sustainer”

Psalms 40

July 7, 2013 AM Service

We continue to look at the Psalms this summer and take a deep look into who God is as He revealed Himself to the Psalmists and as they responded back to Him in worship and prayer. Background of Psalm – Written by David – He is sharing his personal experiences here. We don’t know exactly when he wrote it, (perhaps it was a time Saul was chasing him and he was in despair or when his son Absalom rebelled or maybe a pit of sin that dug the hole or just a time of loneliness) but no doubt it was a testimony of God’s love and faithfulness as David looked back and even a cry in the present looking toward the future for the Lord to sustain Him. As we share this Psalm this morning, would you put yourself in David’s shoes – see where these points come home with you and at our time of invitation we will have a chance to respond to these wonderful truths this morning.

Sus·tain 1. to support, hold, or bear up from below bear the weight of, as a structure. 2. to bear (a burden, charge, etc.). 3. to undergo, experience, or suffer (injury, loss, etc.); endure without giving way or yielding. 4. to keep (a person, the mind, the spirits, etc.) from giving way, as under trial or affliction. 5. to keep up or keep going, as an action or process 6. to supply with food, drink, and other necessities of life. 7. to provide for 8. to support by aid or approval.

He Delivers Me from Destruction and Distress Vs 1-3a

“I waited patiently” – one of several lines David said that He did and the world literally here means, I was waiting, waiting, waiting, - like in a Dr.’s office – except we don’t wait with quiet resignation but in dependence on the Lord, waiting in Him. The Lord will certainly be faithful to do His part, but we certainly have a role to play. We are called to wait patiently which few if any of us do very well. In your life – how has the Lord delivered you from destruction and distress? Think about it! The Lord is never in a hurry! We must learn to wait in Him and as we do we learn more about Him, ourselves and more about how to trust Him, lean on Him, and know He will take care of us!

He Heard Me He turned towards me – turned his attention to me and he heard my cry for help. He was paying attention to me and listening to what I was saying. No false god can hear and nothing of this world can help you when you get in the mess David was in or we find ourselves in.

He Helped Me – Not only does He listen, but He does something about it! I am glad you hear me for that is the first step, but if you hear me and do nothing I am still sunk, up to my neck in quicksand and about to go under! He brought me Up Out of the pit and the miry clay and He Set My feet on a Rock. And he made my footsteps firm – my path was level again, He kept me from falling yet again. I couldn't get myself out- I was stuck! What pits has the Lord brought you out of in your life? What miry clay has He rescued you from?

ILLUS: Guy teaching SS – and his voice clearing up

He Handed (put) Me a new song in my heart

God puts a new song in David's heart – as a result of what he had just experienced – the Lord bringing him out of that pit! We talked about it a few weeks ago, God loves a new song. Now He loves the old, but He also loves the new. I do to. We have learned a few in the past several weeks and we will continue to do so – it's Biblical and sometime something fresh and new gives us yet another way to praise and adore Jesus! By the way, Psalms was the hymn book of the Jewish people so it was most often done corporately.

I Distinguish Myself in Him Vs 3b-4

My life is characterized by Him, I point others to Him by my life Again I have a part to play – I must take action – I must trust in the Lord and as I do that the Lord will continue to sustain and use me for His glory! This is why corporate worship is so important – we can't worship in the same way by ourselves as we can together. That is why I don't believe in seeker friendly worship – I believe our worship can be a testimony to others. Now we don't do it for that reason, but it certainly is a by-product. The result – they will trust in the Lord. Goes further – The man who distinguishes himself not in the world, not in things, not in people, but in the Lord – the one who trusts in the Lord and no other, and doesn't turn to ways of the world or people who run after the world, He is the one who will be blessed – full of joy. People will see that as well and fear and put

their trust in the Lord. People watch how we live our lives – what we don't say sometimes is as powerful as what we do say!

He Desires Me

Vs 5

How do you know that the Lord desires you? Well, David says it clearly here – that He was done many wonderful things and on top of that you think about me all the time, so much so that I cannot even begin to count them. And these thoughts He has towards us, none can compare! What does God think about us? How does He think about us? Ways that He can love you and delight in you. Ways that He can use us for His glory. Treasuring us as His most prized creation. Looking forward to spending time with us as we pray and come together in corporate worship. Get this folks, the God of the universe loves you, desires a relationship with you, so much so that He thinks about you that you can't compare them or count them! That's how much He desires you! Have you stopped long enough to take this amazing truth in? Let's stop right now and do just that! How does He sustain us? As we think about how much He loves us and thinks about us which leads us straight into the next point.

He Delights in My Obedience

Vs 6-8

David says, Lord you have opened my ears – now I hear what you are saying and can understand and obey. Sometimes we learn to listen more intently while we are waiting!

Here David lays out summary of the Mosaic Law and the sacrifices that were required using four Hebrew words. **See page 309 – Phillips**

Here David wasn't saying that these were not important for they were – but what God was saying was that I am more concerned about the heart in which you do these sacrifices! People then just as today think we can go through the motions, the rituals we have, come to church stand up sit down, put some money in a offering plate, go to a class, and we have fulfilled our spiritual obligation to God and He is satisfied. He is not! He could bring sacrifices to the altar, but that wasn't God's first desire. This doesn't mean that such sacrifices were wrong, or that God didn't want His people to offer them, but that God wanted their hearts first of all. Throughout the Old Testament, the Lord made it clear that He could not accept sacrifices unless the worshiper showed sincere devotion, dedication,

and obedience. Basically David says, all of it becomes worthless, useless our hearts and minds are right before Him!

Instead, what He delights in, what pleases Him is the person who is obedient to the Father – why? Because if we love Him we will obey Him. Notice also – His Word is in our hearts! It is a part of who are.

Quick note on **Vs 7** – most scholars believe this was a Messianic Psalm and reference to Jesus and His coming and what He did in **Vs 8**.

How does He sustain us? As we delight ourselves in Him by being obedient and walking in His ways with His word in our hearts!

I Declare His Greatness (Righteousness & Salvation) Vs 9-10

As He looks back over these experiences, even his life he realizes that I have to do something – and it is something that our nation needs is for people who are not ashamed to tell of how great God is and what He has done in their lives and where we would be without Him! Here we see the his life was matching up with His words. He makes the bold statement, I have proclaimed, I have spoken, I have not hidden or restrained. Can you say that this morning? I don't mean do you have a Jesus bumper sticker on your car or if your Facebook status says you love God, or if you have some great saying on your desk – what I am asking is – is your life and your words clearly speaking of how much you love the Lord, how He has changed your life, and what He is doing in your life right now today? You are testifying of how the Lord has sustained you this week – not last month, but how He has delivered today – Reminds me of the song– **When I Think about the Lord – quote the lyrics!** Who can share with this week about the Father's love for them?

He Delivers Me From My Sin Vs 11-12

He thanks the Lord for His compassion and mercy and that the Lord would not withhold his lovingkindness from him – realizing that the only way he would make it would be to stand in God's truth. I don't know about you, but I can relate to **Vs 12** – what a honest confession before the Lord. Ever felt like that before? Maybe you feel like it today. **Verse 13** gives us God's answer and David' plea which connects here and to the next point as well. What sin do you need the Father to deliver you from. Today, come and confess it and repent from it, make a decision to live differently – tell someone and let them pray with and for you and hold you accountable.

How does He sustain us? He delivers us from our sin that weighs us down! We cast that burden on Him – for we aren't equipped to handle it!

He Defends Me From My Enemies Vs 13-15

David prays honestly that those who would stand against him would be taken care of. Notice, this comes after He has worshiped and gotten his own heart right first – not the other way around. Many times we want God to take care of someone else, when in fact many times we are the problem! God promises to take care of us and to protect us from our enemies. I haven't been there many times, but I have been there a few times in my life and what a prayer to pray instead of taking the matter into our own hands which is the temptation. David left it up to the Lord. It meant He let the Lord carry that burden, not him.

I Depend Upon Him Vs 16-17

The Psalms ends really in the way that it begins. Without the Lord, I would have been sunk, I was in the pit, in the miry clay. He says, as I face a new day, a new situation, I will have to say the same thing, Lord I am needy and afflicted, be mindful of me. Not, I can do this on my own! I am going to try harder, I am going to bear down and make the changes – NO! It is Lord, I am sunk without you, everyday. You alone are my Help and My Deliverer – don't delay – come right now.

And let us end with a great thought here in **Vs 16**. which really states our calling in life and that is to magnify God. Now God is huge, bigger than anything we can imagine, but people cannot see Him, only evidences of Him in creation some of which are huge – but how people can see it the clearest is in a simple life like yours and mine, small and insignificant yet serving and loving a great God – by making His name great – allowing Him to live in us and through us as we depend upon Him to sustain us, that magnifies God – makes Him big, brings Him worship and glory and honor. May we not make Him small but make Him big with our lives as He daily sustains us, carries us, and helps us to become all that He wants us to be, that we can never do without Him!

Song: “Without Him”