

## *A Friend You Can Count On*

### Psalm 41

Blessed is the one who considers the poor!  
In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him;  
the Lord protects him and keeps him alive;  
he is called blessed in the land;  
you do not give him up to the will of his enemies.  
The Lord sustains him on his sickbed;  
in his illness you restore him to full health.

As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me;  
heal me, for I have sinned against you!"  
My enemies say of me in malice,  
"When will he die, and his name perish?"  
And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words,  
while his heart gathers iniquity;  
when he goes out, he tells it abroad.  
All who hate me whisper together about me;  
they imagine the worst for me.

They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him;  
he will not rise again from where he lies."  
Even my close friend in whom I trusted,  
who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.  
But you, O Lord, be gracious to me,  
and raise me up, that I may repay them!  
By this I know that you delight in me:  
my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.  
But you have upheld me because of my integrity,  
and set me in your presence forever.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
from everlasting to everlasting!  
Amen and Amen.

**K**ing David had his share of enemies. Sin divides us and pits us against one another. Rare (or maybe non-existent!) is the person who can say they have no enemies.

Having enemies is one thing. But having that enemy be a close friend or even the son of your own flesh and blood is another. That stings even worse. And that happened to David. So David turns to the Lord. For while every person on this earth may let us down and turn against us, the Lord never will.

*How do we know?* Because this psalm isn't just about David; it is about Jesus, too. Jesus quotes this psalm about His close friend and disciple Judas who, after eating of Jesus' bread in the Lord's Supper, lifted his heel against Jesus in betrayal. Jesus also had many conspiring against Him, religious leaders even, who should have welcomed Him. But they didn't. Instead they turned against Him. He was not the kind of Messiah they wanted.

But He is the kind of Messiah we need! One who (as the psalm says) considers the poor, delivers the troubled, and heals the sick. But that's not all. He is one who also cried out with us, ***"O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!"*** But wait! How could Jesus cry out such words, when He was the *sinless* Son of God? He could because He took our sin, your sin and my sin, and all the sin of the world, and made it His own. He became the sinner in our place, and then went to the cross to suffer the punishment and death we deserved. That is one heavy burden! And when He bowed His head in death, His enemies were quite pleased.

But so was His Father in heaven! For this is what He sent His Son to do - redeem the world! And so as this psalm also says, Jesus was ***raised up***, His ***enemy did not triumph over Him*** (though it looked like it for a moment), and Jesus, the God-man, has been ***set in God's presence forever***. And those who belong to Him will be with Him there as well. Forever.

So when you find yourself like David, beset by enemies (perhaps even those

closest to you!), and maybe filled with concerns, worries, and fears, do as he did - turn to the Lord as your refuge and strength. And know that the Lord will be faithful to all His words and promises to you. That doesn't necessarily mean things will be easy, but it does mean you are not alone. For He who went through all that you are going through - and worse! - knows what you need and will provide. So that, in the end, you can say with King David, ***Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen!***

*Lord Jesus, You know what it's like to be surrounded by enemies. You know what it's like when your close friend turns against you. You know exactly what I am going through in my life! Thank You for coming as my Saviour, and thank You that, risen from the dead, You continue to provide me all that I need, most especially the forgiveness of my sins. You are a friend that will never let me down. Help me turn to You in every need, and help me believe that You always provide what I need and do what is best for me. And keep me to the end, that I too may be in presence and praise You forever. Amen.*