



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Thought on Psalm 38... by Jeanne

- **T**he psalmist is in bitter distress. This is a place every Christian can and will find themselves at some stage along our Christian journey.
- Many burdens are shared in public, while many of our personal spiritual battles remain hidden. These burdens can be heaviest to bear and our spirits can feel like they are being crushed (see Proverbs 18:14)
- This is a very lonely journey..(See psalm 38v11)
- The psalmist was ready to fall v17. This refers to a weakness caused by pain and sorrow. He was ready to give up in despair, he was so depressed in spirit.
- May we be careful to watch out for one another. Behind many smiling faces are hidden hearts that are broken. "sorrow and anguish hide themselves from the observations of men, but God spies them out"
- This journey is very personal between the believer and God but we can help soothe the rawness of this painful journey by enfolding one another in love.
- As the hen gathers her chicks, we are to gather one another in love. Each believer is in a battle and so the church can be likened to an Intensive Care Unit, where wounded weary ones find shelter and rest.
- AW Tozer: *"The devil, things and people being what they are, it is necessary for God to use the hammer, the file and the furnace in His holy work of preparing a saint for true sainthood."*
- it is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply" So there will always be hurting among us.
- God does not bypass the waters and the fire, but He meets us there, From *'Hinds Feet on High Places.'* Words of the flower called Bearing the Cost;
- ^a *"I have borne and not fainted. I have not ceased to love and the love helped me push through the crack in the rock until I could look right out on my love; the sun himself. Now there is nothing whatsoever between my love and my heart, nothing around me to distract me from him. He shines on me and makes me to rejoice and has atoned for me for all that was taken from me. There is no flower in all the world more blessed or satisfied than I for I look up to him as a weaned child and say " Whom have I in heaven but You and here is none upon the earth I desire but Thee"*
- This is the place that God is bringing us to through our trials.
- The most Godly travel this road. See David Wilkerson's personal story of when his marriage almost ended, available online.
- When walking this lonely, sorrowful road, we still function, even still hear from God, but there is a cloud hanging over which varies from day to day.

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Week 19

- Like the psalmist in v15 of *psalm 38* we wait. We believe to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Though Gods hand is pressing down, with His other Hand he is holding up and even strengthening our faith.
- Verse 9 of *Psalm 38*: "*All my longings lie open before You*". How unspeakably precious to have this deep very intimate union with God. see *Psalm 139*.
- Meditating on this psalm we see there is an underlying theme of sin running through it. see verses 3,5, 18.
- "*Whenever God brings you under affliction you are then in a fit plight to confess sin and call to remembrance your sin*" Christopher Love.
- **SEARCH ME O LORD**
- God reaches down into our innermost being through all the pain and sadness, all the loneliness, all the fog and confusion and brings to light those sins that lie at the root of our sorrows.
- He brings our sins to light so we might repent and be set free. "*A man is close to the end of his trouble when he comes to an end with his sins*"
- Spurgeon: "*The Lord knows how to shoot so that His bolts not only strike but stick. He can make convictions sink into the innermost spirit like arrows driven up into the head. It seems strange that the Lord should shoot at His beloved ones, but in truth He shoots at their sin and not them*"
- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Our enemy never grows weary so we must live near the cross and watch over our hearts with all diligence. Sin so easily besets us, eg; Bitterness.
- "~~If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we should find in each persons life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility~~" H. Longfellow
- In read, "*Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ forgave you*" Eph 4:32
- **PRIDE**: *Proverbs 28; 26*: "*He who trusts his own heart is a fool*"
- **FEAR**: Fear causes us to try to control our futures but Perfect Love casts out fear.
- Psalmist in *Psalm 38v21*: "*Lord do not forsake me, do not be far from me, my God. Come quickly to help me my God and my Saviour*" Now is the time when I need You most.
- A broken spirit and a contrite heart You will not despise. You desire truth in the inward parts . *Psalm 51*. Christ is our Great Physician. He understands the symptoms of our disease and sees the hidden evil which they reveal, so we are safe in His hands.
- Come to Jesus just as we are , empty handed and take Him just as He is. Our sense of sin shall melt into the joy of salvation, grief shall lead into gratitude and gratitude to joy unspeakable and full of glory. (Spurgeon). ■