**May 16, 2023**

**BIBLE STUDY**

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**“LORD, KEEP MY HEART FROM EVIL”**

**Psalms 141:1-10**

{A Psalm of David}

***Psalms 141:1 “LORD, I cry unto thee: make haste unto me; give ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee.”***

Psalm 141 contains a similar theme as that found in Psalms 140, requesting protection from the wicked. This lament psalm, however, deals with more internal struggles than external foes. David once again presents himself as a model of sincere trust in God when suffering at the hands of the wicked or wrestling to achieve personal righteousness. In Diverting from Iniquity, we see an urgency in this prayer of David. Even though things were bad with David, he never stopped praying. He knew where his help would come from when it came. He just wanted God to hear and answer this prayer now. God loves this type of prayer, because He realizes David's sincerity in his belief that God will help him. When we pray, we must know in our heart that the only true help for us is in God.

***Psalm 51:17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”***

***Psalms 141:2 "Let my prayer be set forth before thee [as] incense; [and] the lifting up of my hands [as] the evening sacrifice."***

David describes his prayer in terms of priestly sacrifices. His prayer is presented in terms of worship as incense and the lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

***Exodus 30:8 “And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.”***

***Revelation 5:8 “And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.”***

***Psalm 28:2 “Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle.”***

***Psalm 134:2 “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.”***

***Exodus 29:41 “And the other lamb thou shalt offer at even, and shalt do thereto according to the meat offering of the morning, and according to the drink offering thereof, for a sweet savour, an offering made by fire unto the Lord.”***

The smoke that rose to heaven from the burning incense in the temple was symbolic of the prayers of the saints. This is something that David would know, and that is what he is saying here. Praise is the sacrifice that God really wants from us.

***Hebrews 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name."***

The praise that is accompanied by the uplifting of the hands to the Lord, just emphasizes who we are praising and how sincere the praise is. When you lift your hands to God, you are humbling yourself before Him. In other words, David didn’t consider his entreaty as only a plea for help. It was an act of worship.

***Psalms 141:3-4***

***3 "Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."***

***4 "Incline not my heart to [any] evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties."***

The same mouth is capable of doing evil or good, as we read in the next Scripture.

***James 3:10 "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."***

David understood his own sinfulness and longed for righteousness. Therefore, he asks the Lord to keep him from wickedness in his speech, in his heart, and in his actions. David is saying, I do not want this mouth that praises you to say evil things. Lord, you guard what I say. Put a bridle on my speech, Lord. Let only the things which will be pleasing unto your ears come from this mouth. This is just a plea from David for God to remove all temptation from him. Keep me from even associating with these evil people, Lord. The flesh is tempted sometimes to work with evil people if the pay is good. We are, also, tempted to eat delicious things prepared by the evil, as well. The flesh is an enemy of the spirit. That is why it is so important to make the spirit ruler in our life. Let the spirit rule and then you will not be tempted by the flesh. The soul is the will of man. Perhaps, it is sometimes spoken of as our innermost being. Make the spirit the control over your will. The only way that we can do this, is make Jesus Lord of our life. Let Him be in charge of our spirit. Here are a series of similar prayer requests:

***Psalm 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”***

***Psalm 119:36 “Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.”***

***Proverbs 13:20 “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.”***

***Psalms 141:5 "Let the righteous smite me; [it shall be] a kindness: and let him reprove me; [it shall be] an excellent oil, [which] shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also [shall be] in their calamities."***

David welcomes the rebuke of the righteous. If words of correction were delivered to him in faithful love, David would not refuse them but would consider them like healing oil for [his] head. When you are in the company of the righteous, they will help you. If you have a weak moment, they will correct you before you sin. The righteous should fellowship with others who are righteous, as well. We help each other stay on the right path. This reproof, spoken of here, could be from the Righteous One. This would be like a chastisement. When He reproves us, it is in love like a father correcting a child. It is not a harm to our head but is a blessing like the oil of the Holy Spirit which brings peace.

***Psalms 141:6 "When their judges are overthrown in stony places, they shall hear my words; for they are sweet."***

While enjoying the fellowship and correction of the righteous, David’s prayer is still against the wicked. His imprecation on the wicked is for their unrighteous judges to be thrown down to their deaths on the rock. These judges, in stony places, is speaking of the evil one being overthrown, and then David will rise and speak. David's words will be pleasing to the ears of the Lord.

***2 Chronicles 25:12 “And other ten thousand left alive did the children of Judah carry away captive, and brought them unto the top of the rock, and cast them down from the top of the rock, that they all were broken in pieces.”***

***Psalms 141:7 "Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth [wood] upon the earth."***

This is similar of the dry bones in Ezekiel. The only way that the bones in Ezekiel or the bones mentioned above here, can live is for God to put back the life into them. The life in all of our bodies is the Spirit of God. It is His breath {Spirit}. By the foolishness of preaching, those that believe are saved.

***Ezekiel 37:1-5***

***1 "The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which [was] full of bones,"***

***2 "And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, [there were] very many in the open valley; and, lo, [they were] very dry."***

***3 "And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest."***

***4 "Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD."***

***5 "Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:"***

***Psalms 141:8-10***

***8 "But mine eyes [are] unto thee, O GOD the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute."***

***9 "Keep me from the snares [which] they have laid for me, and the gins of the workers of iniquity."***

***10 "Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst that I withal escape."***

The psalmist, here, is saying, I believe in God the LORD. God will givehim new life because he believes.David is fully aware of what temptation can do. He is asking the Lord, here, to keep him from all temptation. Satan knows our weaknesses, and he sets traps along the way that we might be caught in our own temptation. David is saying to the Lord, you know I am weak. You keep me from temptation. The trap that the evil one has set for us would be a good trap for him to fall into. If they live by the sword, let them die by the sword is what David is saying. David’s absolute trust in God is emphasized by his declaring my eyes are toward You, O God, the Lord. The conclusion of the psalm concerning taking refuge in God and praying for escape from the trap and snares of the enemy is parallel to 140:4-5.

***Psalm 25:15 “Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net.”***

***Psalm 123:2 “Behold, as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, and as the eyes of a maiden unto the hand of her mistress; so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that he have mercy upon us.”***

**QUESTIONS**

1. Even though things were bad for David, he never stopped \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why does God love this type of prayer?
3. Let my prayer be set before thee as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What in the temple services symbolized the prayers of saints?
5. What does praise with the uplifting of the hands show?
6. What did he ask for God to do to his mouth?
7. What is verse 4 a plea for?
8. Why is it so important to make the spirit ruler in our life?
9. What is the soul?
10. How is the only way to get the spirit to rule over the flesh?
11. Let the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ smite me.
12. What is this reproof like?
13. Who are the judges in stony places?
14. Our bones are scattered at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mouth.
15. Where do we read in Ezekiel about the dry bones?
16. What makes the dry bones live?
17. By what foolishness are people saved?
18. Why will God give him new life?
19. David said, keep me from the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
20. Let the wicked fall into their \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_.