

Series: Praying Through the Scriptures

Praying like a Psalmist: Psalm 141

Sunday July 22, 2018

1. *O Lord, I call to you; come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you... (v. 1).*

2. "O Lord, I call to you – though I wished I called to you more instinctively and more often. Yet – here I am – turning to you – because – where else can I turn who knows me and loves me and helps me like you do?! Hear my voice – hear it's tone and it's volume. I am your son in Christ. Thank you for knowing my voice."

3. *May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice... (v. 2).*

4. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting... Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me... (Ps. 139:23-24; 51:10). Receive my prayer as I am intending it – as your child (because of Jesus) - made right with you, and with a heart to do Your will."

5. *Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips. Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil, to take part in wicked deeds with men who are evildoers; let me not eat of their delicacies (vv. 3-4).*

6. **Insert this video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EOpnHQZCOqc**

7. "O Lord, guard my stupid mouth when I don't. Protect me from what I might say and do. Help me to say what is good and true. Help me to see the stupidity of the ways of evil and wicked men – and help me to know them by the things they say and do. You have called me to a life of meaning and purpose. Help me to hold out for that!"

8. *Let a righteous man strike me – it is a kindness; let him rebuke me – it is oil on my head. My head will not refuse it (v. 5).*

9. "O Lord, surround me with men and women who know you and love me. May they speak truth in love to me and may I receive it that way. Is there anything that's been said to me or done to me recently in this way that I have rejected? Make it known to me so that I can respond accordingly. And make me ready – make my heart sensitive – to hear whatever truth I need to hear - however harsh it may seem to me at the time to hear it. And help me to respond in life-giving ways."

10. *Yet my prayer is ever against the deeds of evil doers; their rulers will be thrown down from the cliffs, and the wicked will learn that my words were well spoken. They*

will say, "As one plows and breaks up the earth, so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave." (vv. 5-7)

11. "O Lord, for a time when I held out to do what was right – and you vindicated me – thank you! For a time when I did not hold out to do what was right – thank you for forgiving me and I'm sorry I didn't trust you and your ways. For a time that is to come – when I will be tempted to justify a means to an end – help me to keep my integrity – help me to choose what is right – help me to align myself with you so that I can live with myself – whether you vindicate me or not – whether or not I recognize your vindication of me. Help me to do what is right because it's always right to do what is right!"

12. *But my eyes are fixed on you, O Sovereign Lord; in you I take refuge – do not give me over to death. Keep me from the snares they have laid for me, from the traps set by evildoers. Let the wicked fall into their own nets, while I pass by in safety (vv. 8-10).*

13. "O Lord, my life goes better when my eyes are fixed on you. Help me to stay focused on you and on your ways. Give me sight to see the stumbling blocks in my life – those I create for myself, those that just happen because of life, and those that the snares and traps of my enemies. Help me to learn from my failures and to do better next time. And, as always, thanks for your patience and forgiveness!"

14. 2 Points 4 Peace:

1. *Set a guard over my mouth...*

2. *Fixed on you, Sovereign Lord...*