

THE ROAD TO RESURRECTION

A **JOURNAL** FOR THE JOURNEY



DAY 41 – PSALM 41

With friends like that, who needs enemies!

David writes this Psalm while on his sickbed. He's ill and vulnerable. And in his hour of need, his best mate – the one who should be by his side – abandons him.

Even worse, he has to contend with his real enemies who – not content to kill his reputation by spreading rumours about him – wish him dead.

We live in an increasingly secular world, one which tries to snuff out the Christian message, just as the powers that be tried to snuff out the Saviour of that very same world. We find ourselves under attack for our beliefs. At times it feels as though we are surrounded by enemies.

How do we respond? Like David, let us look to God, the one who delivers us [verse 1], protects, preserves and blesses us [verse 2], sustains and heals us [verse 3], shows us mercy [verse 10], upholds us [verse 12] and assures us of life with him for evermore [verse 12].

Notes

Prayer: Heavenly father, in the presence of those who would seek to quash the Gospel message and attack our faith, help us to look to you for strength, protection and reassurance.

A.K

DAY 42 – PSALM 42

Remember the first fall of winter snow, that Narnia-like landscape of white diamonds glistening in the sunshine against a beautiful blue backdrop, the invigorating air bringing our senses to life? Stunning!

Then, with every footprint, the purity of the snow turns into a murky mess and it's a risky business negotiating a route upon the compacted ice.

Isn't life like that? The times when we're exhilarated by the joy of living; the times when difficulties hit and we're struggling to maintain composure.

So it is with the Psalmist, a musician in the Tabernacle and the Temple who sang sacred songs of exultation in response to the blessings of the Lord. Yet here we see a very different man – tearful, fearful, oppressed.

In the depth of his anguish, he seeks solace in the Lord – he thirsts for Him [verse 2], puts his hope in Him, praises Him and acknowledges Him as his rock and Saviour [verses 5 & 9]. May we do the same.

Notes

Prayer: Lord, in every circumstance I will put my hope in you, and I will praise you, my Saviour and my God.

A.K



DAY 43 – PSALM 43

Again we encounter the Psalmist in the rawness of his emotion. Amazingly honest about his feelings, he isn't ashamed of showing his frailty – no brave face or mask to hide behind, no falsehood that betrays integrity. He says it just as it is.

So, in a spirit of openness, submit to God your:

heart – your anxieties, concerns, emotions;

soul – that innermost part of you so precious to the one who created you;

mind – the whizzing thoughts, decisions, judgements that inform actions and influence beliefs;

strength – the totality of your physical, emotional and spiritual energy that is directed in service to the living God.

In so doing, you'll find an inner strength as He sends forth His light and truth, guides you and brings you to where he dwells [verse 3]. In that place of complete security in Him, He will be your stronghold [verse 2], equipping you to love others as you love yourself [Mark 12:31].

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Prayer: Thank you Lord that we can have complete security in you, our stronghold at all times. A.K.

DAY 44 – PSALM 44

The number A26188 is tattooed on the inside of Henia Bryer's left wrist. It is a cruel reminder of her incarceration in four concentration camps during the Second World War and the gruelling 500-mile Death March to Bergen-Belsen. A witness to the unimaginable atrocities of the Holocaust, Henia lost her father, brother and sister at the hands of the Nazis and has not uttered a word about her experiences to anyone.

Until now.

A woman of remarkable poise, character and faith, Henia bears no malice. She tells her story simply and without sensation. She has even jested – in an echo of the Psalmist's cry of desolation [verse 23] – that God was asleep at Auschwitz.

The shocking parallel between the plight of the Jews 70 years ago and the disaster that befell them centuries before [verses 9–22] is palpable.

And today, on the cusp of Good Friday, we are mindful of another cry of desolation: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

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Prayer: Awake O Lord! Why do you sleep? Rise up and help us; redeem us because of your unfailing love. A.K.

