



Sermon Discussion Guide

Psalms: Songs of the Soul

Psalm 40:1-17

Ronnie Garcia, May 24, 2020

Step 1: Reflect on the Text

Read the Scripture printed above. What stands out to you? What do you find interesting and/or important? What is challenging or causes you to have questions?

Step 2: Reflect on the Sermon

INTRODUCTION

1. Have you ever noticed that Psalm 40 ends with no indication of resolution? What are the benefits when the people of God sing their unresolved problems together?
2. What was your one, big takeaway from the sermon? How would you summarize the main theme of the sermon in one phrase or sentence?

TO REMEMBER (vv. 2-3)

1. David does not begin his song with a request, rather he begins by remembering a history of God's faithfulness. Why is it so important that our relationship with God not begin with our problems?
2. What are some of the idols or coping mechanisms that you are tempted to run to when you are forced to wait patiently for God's response?

TO BE HONEST (vv. 12, 14-15)

1. David was quite vulnerable with his failures, and he ensured that they were recorded for the entire congregation to sing. What did David believe about God that moved him into honesty? What did Ronnie mean when he said the "risk is worth the rest"?
2. Have you ever been hurt by a self-righteous person who enjoyed seeing you mess up? Have you ever been self-righteous towards others? How?

Step 3: Final Reflections

1. Ronnie explained that King David wrote in two distinct roles: 1) ideal Israelite and 2) representative instrument. As the representative, we learned that the fate of the people was tied to David's obedience (or disobedience)—that is, his life in particular, was a kind of sacrifice. Why is it so significant that Jesus quotes Psalm 40 and says it is about him? (cf. Heb 10:5-10) What does this mean for our fate and wellbeing?
2. Does God thinking of humankind as His children affect the way we go about evangelism, or sharing the news of Jesus and His work? Why or why not?

3. In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?