

# Psalm

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Preacher: Jempson, George Thomas (1905-1989)

- [ 0 : 00 ]     The words upon my mind, which I hope the Lord will help me to speak from this morning, will be found in Psalm 38, the last two verses.
- Versace me not, O Lord, O my God, be not far from me, make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.
- Psalm 38, verses 21 and 22. Versace me not, O Lord, O my God, be not far from me, make haste to help me, O Lord, my salvation.
- This is the very feelings of my heart, I believe I can say at this time. That the Lord might make haste, that he might break through that dark load that seems to be hovering around one this morning.
- To make haste to help. And no one feels his need of the help of the Holy Spirit at all times.
- [ 1 : 47 ]     And at this time to unfold a little that is coached in the Holy Word of God.
- We understand this sermon is of David. The Lord greatly blessed him.
- Blessed him with spiritual life, grace, the fear of God. And the Lord was pleased to bless David with wisdom.
- And yet David had those paths to walk. And to experience such as in the text.
- He wasn't always on the top of the mountain in praise. David was often perhaps walking in the same experience of Jeremiah.
- [ 2 : 51 ]     Often down in the dungeon. And it appears to the words of our text this morning. That he was somewhat in darkness.
- The Lord seemed to withdraw his presence from the serenity. David. He seemed to be walking alone.
- And there was a cry in his heart. And I have no doubt from this prayer. These few words. Forsake me not.
- O Lord. Came forth from the heart of David. And ascended into heaven. Forsake me not. O Lord.
- Yea, we can say that David had experienced somewhat of what we have read. In Psalm 22. And in this Psalm before us.
- [ 3 : 54 ]     David knew what it was to be under the chastening hand of God. Rebuke me not in thy wrath, says David.
- Neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. David knew what it was to be convinced of sin. He knew the burden of sin.
- The guilt upon the conscience. For thine harrow stick fast in me. And thy hand presseth me sore.
- He looked, as it were, into his own tabernacle. In his own body. There is no soundness in my flesh, says David.

Reminds me of the words of the apostle Paul. O wretched man that I am. Who shall deliver me from this body of sin and of death.

[ 4 : 57 ] No soundness in my flesh. Neither is there any rest in my bones. And he gives the reason. Because of my sin.

For mine iniquities are gone over mine head. As in heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. Language of David.

I believe this is the experience of well-exercised souls. Souls who have been quickened by divine grace.

Souls who know the work of the Spirit within. For it is the work of the Spirit to unfold what is in our hearts by nature in some measure.

You and I can remember perhaps those days when we were in darkness. When we had not the fear of God in our heart.

[ 6 : 04 ] And we were not troubled as the soundness. We could not say there was no soundness in our flesh. We could not speak of our iniquities being a heavy burden.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts unfolding to us what is in us by nature.

And the more the Holy Spirit works within. And the more the Holy Spirit works within and gives light. Heavier will be the burden. That we shall come again with the words of the soundness.

And say my wounds stink. And are corrupt because of my foolishness. The soul was wounded.

And nothing, nothing can heal these wounds. But the precious blood of Christ. Again he says I am troubled.

[ 7 : 11 ] I am bowed down greatly. Do you know this path dear friend? Do you know this experience? Blessed soul. You say is.

Are we blessed then. If we are brought so low. Most decidedly. Because it's the spirit in you. You become the temple of the Holy Ghost.

And the Holy Spirit is unfolding to you. The malady. We shall never search. Shall I say. For the remedy. We shall not have a desire for the remedy.

Unless we know the malady. And sell this intuit. And I believe you and I. In some measure. We may not have been brought so low.

As David. To be able to say. I am bowed down greatly. I go mourning all the day long. But this is the work of the spirit.

[ 8 : 17 ] For my loins are filled with a loessome disease. And there is no soundness in my flesh. And walking through these experiences.

David eventually came to the words of our text. Forsake me not. O Lord. So we can say. It was the experience of the serenity.

It's the experience of every child of God. The church of God. But I desire to look at it from another viewpoint.

As I may be helped. It's the path. It's the path. That Jesus Christ. The Son of God. Entered into.

And experienced. You say. Well. Is it possible. For him to come into such a realm. As this. Would he have ever said.

[ 9 : 16 ] My wounds stink. And are corrupt. Because of my foolishness. Could he have ever come here. I am troubled. I am bowed down greatly.

I go mourning all the day long. Yes. Yes. Your thoughts may be. Well. Jesus. The Son of God.

Was a holy man. True he was. Holy. He was never defied by sin. He knew nothing. Of this. Nature. Of sin. Within him. He had one principle. Grace. Grace. Full of grace. Full of love. Holiness. Wisdom. How could such a man then. Come into such an experience. As we have read.

[ 10 : 16 ] In these. These. Sons. They were not his sins. And yet. Out of love. To his people. He called them. His sins.

And not only. Called them. His sins. And his iniquities. But. He was willing. To take them. And to bear them. Oh.

The wonderful plan. Of salvation. That dear man of God. Who never sinned. And yet. Willingly. Took upon him.

In his body. Upon his heart. Within his soul. The sins. Of the church of God. No other way. No other way. Of deliverance. No other. Remedy. But. In the gospel. Christ. Christ. Is the gospel. And the gospel. Is Christ.

[ 11 : 12 ] So he walked. And it gives us. A little idea. Dear friends. How deep. He went. In. This path. Oh.

And Lord. He said. May we. Use the word. Here. Father. Father. Oh. My desire.

Is before thee. And what. The desire. Of Christ. Why. To be. In able. To continue. In his pilgrimage. To continue.

In the work. Of salvation. To bring it. To pass. To lay down. His life. And take it again. That he might be. A living.

A saviour. Lord. All my desire. Is before thee. And his desire. I believe. Was to bring. His chosen.

[ 12 : 10 ] To the father. Through. His merits. Righteousness. And blood. The plan. Of salvation. So. The Lord. Jesus. Went into this path. My groanings. Is it. Is not it. From thee. Groanings. Yes. What have we read. In the.

Twenty second. Psalm. My God. There's a groan there. My God. Why. Hast thou. Forsaken.

Me. Me. And in this experience. He came. Very low. He says. I am feeble. And sore broken. I have roared. By the. Reason.

Of the. Disquietness. Of my heart. And yet. He says. All my desire. Is before thee. And my groaning.

[ 13 : 05 ] Is not hid. From thee. And all. Had forsaken him. Even his. His disciples. My lovers. And my friends.

Stand aloof. From my sword. And my kingsmen. Stand. Afar off. Yea. He came. Into this word. Of their text.

Forsake me not. O Lord. O. My God. I believe. We can. In some.

Very. Very. Small measure. Experience. Or. By faith.

Can see. Where. Jesus. Was. At that time. Bow down. Bow down. And the.

[ 14 : 04 ] Hidings. Of his. Father's face. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Knew. This experience. He was often. Brought into darkness. In his last. Days. Upon. Earth. To fulfill. That law.

To satisfy. The Father. He stood alone. His disciples. His disciples. Forsook him. It appears.

At times. In the reading. That his. Father. Forsook him. Yet. He never did. He never. Forsook him. But he. Hit his face.

In other words. There wasn't that sweet. Communion. One. One. With the other. That Jesus. Knew. Of. All his pilgrimage. Day.

[ 14 : 59 ] By day. Night. By night. I believe. They commune. One. With the other. Day. And now. As this great. Work of salvation.

Yea. Near. He got. To. The garden. Of Gethsemane. And closer. To Calvary. There was. The hidings.

Of his. Father's. Face. That he had. To come. Into the same. Words. As David. But. Far. Deeper. Far. Deeper.

Than we. Have ever. Trought. Never. Have we. Got. So deep. In air. Experience. As Jesus. Did. When he. Said.

Forsake. Me. Not. O God. Lord. Forsake. Me. Not. O Father. Forsake. Me. Not. Why.

[ 15 : 55 ] That dear. Man. No doubt. Was in. Much. Darkness. Much. Darkness. Of. Night. When. His. Father.

In his. Face. When he. Walked. Alone. And. The. Burden. Was.

To be. Carried. By. Himself. Without. The. Help. Of. His. Father. Without. The. Help. Of. The. Disciples. He. Was. To. Walk.

Alone. To. Bear. It. Alone. In. His. Body. And. Spirit. I. Said. At times. Oh.

What a. Burden. That. Dear. Man. Carried. And. The. Effect. Of. It. In. His. Body. And.

[ 16 : 48 ] Especially. As. He. Hung. Upon. That. Accursed. Tree. And. Yet. Speaking. With. All. Reverence.

It. Was. Little. Very. Little. Compared. With. The. Weight. Upon. His. Spirit. To.

Bring. To. Pass. Life. Everlasting. Salvation. For. That. Great. Multitude. Of. Sinners. Whom. The. Father.

Had. Given. Him. To. Riddain. Forsake. Me. Not. Oh. Lord. Well.

Dear. Friends. I. Believe. You. And. I. Know. A little. Of. This. Path. Do we. Not. You.

[ 17 : 40 ] Look. Within. At. Times. And. You. Realize. What. A. Poor. Thing. You. Are. Can. The. Lord. Look. Upon. Me. The.

Question. Arises. Can. You. Remember. Me. Will he. Continue. His loving kindness.

Toward. Me. So often. I have. Forsaken. Him. So often. I have. Sinned. Against. Him.

Haven't. Read. His word. As I should. Prayed.

As I should. And. The. Guilt. Comes. Upon. The. Conscience. And. Sometimes. The. Very. Devil. Comes. In.

[ 18 : 35 ] Into. The. Heart. And. Says. Well. You. Have. Forsaken. Him. And. He. Will. Forsake. You. And. The. Cry. Comes. Out.

Of. The. Heart. Forsake. Me. Not. Oh. Lord. As. I've. Said. You know. David. Came. Here. I. Believe. Sometimes.

We've. Drawn. A. Little. Comfort. From. The. Thought. Of. It. That. Dear. Man. Who. We. Know. Is. Know. In. Heaven. Walk. The. Same. Path. As. We. Do. And. Had. The.

Same. To. The. Same. Her. God. He.

Sought. The. Same. Things. As. We. Seek. Mercy. Forgiveness. Forsake. Me. Not. I. Believe. This. Cry.

[ 19 : 27 ] Comes. Out. Of. The. Heart. Of. Those. Who. Have. Known. The. Lord. Tasted. That. He's. Been. Gracious. You.

Have. Heard. His. Voice. You. Felt. A. Of. His. Presence. The. Heart. At. Times. Had. Been. Touched. With. His. Grace. You.

May. Have. Walked. As. It. Were. With. A. Sweet. Experience. As. The. Disciples. Of. Old. On. The. Way. To. Emmaus. When.

Your. Heart. Burned. Within. You. And. You. Could. Say. As. They. Did. Not. Her. Heart. Burn. Within. Us. As. We. Walked.

And. Talked. As. It. Were. By. The. Way. Some. Of. You. Know. This. Experience. Now. Perhaps. This. Morning. He. He. Has. Turned. His. His. Face. He's.

[ 20 : 25 ] Drawn. A. Curting. Between. Him. And. Thy. Soul. And. It. Causes. This. Cry. This. Prayer. To. Come.

Out. Of. The. Heart. Forsake. Me. Not. O. Lord. Maybe. In. Some. Affliction. The.

Lord. Lays. His. Afflicting. Hand. Upon. His. People. As. A. Purpose. For. It. Is. Not. In. His. Anger. If. Rightly. Viewed. We. Should. See. It. Was. It. It. His.

Love. But. He. Lays. His. Hand. Some. Affliction. You. Can't. Understand. It. Why. Should. It. Be.

He. Said. He. Has. Loved. Me. With. An. Everlasting. Love. And. Know. This. Affliction. This. Trial. This. Storm. In. Life. It. Brings.

[ 21 : 16 ] Out. A. Cry. Forsake. Me. Not. Oh. Lord. Maybe. Something. In. Providence. In.

The. Things. Of. This. Life. Things. Haven't. Gone. As. You. Expected. As. You. Prayed. For. And.

You. Come. Come. Again. With. This. Man. David. Or. He. Staggered. Like. A. Drunken. Man. And. As. His. Witch. End.

And. With. Another. Child. Of. God. He. Said. All. These. Things. Are. Against. Me. This. The. Way. Then. The. Lord. Leads. His. People. Most. Decidedly.

And. Will. Bring. For. This. Short. Prayer. Forsake. Me. Not. And. When. This. Short. Prayer. Comes. Out. Of. Our. Hearts. And. As. As. As. As. As.

[ 22 : 12 ] As.

As. As. As. She. As. As.

As. As. As. As.

As. As. As. As. of the living until the dying moment. How many have had to pray this prayer on a dying bed.

Forsake me not, O Lord. Not in all cases. But I believe there's many who have come even to the gates of death in much darkness.

[ 23 : 10 ] In much darkness. I have heard of some of the Lord's dear people when near their journey's end they've had to cry that the light might appear.

And doesn't that remind us, dear friends, of the words we've already quoted that Jesus spoke very near to the end My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Well, if the Lord Jesus had to enter into this prayer unto his Father, why not you? Why not me? It's the same steps, in some measure, of the steps of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Forsake me not. And as I said, when the Lord hides his face, this will be the cry. Forsake me not. And again, as you know, David cried in Psalm 104, or 6, Remember me with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people.

O visit me with thy salvation. The Lord will never forsake his dear people. We may fear he will.

[ 24 : 38 ] We may often be troubled that he will forsake us. But we must look at it from another viewpoint. His promises stand.

They're upon the rock. Nothing can move those precious promises that God has given to Zion. Let me quote just one or two.

Fear not, I have redeemed thee. Thou art mine. You say, well, yes, when the Lord speaks that word with power into my heart, the fear is gone.

But when he withdraws, when the night is gone, the sweetness of the word, the power of the word, then I have to come again into the word.

Forsake me not, O Lord. I've often been, shall I say, comforted for those words in the sound.

[ 25 : 41 ] The angels of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him. So if the Lord has provided provided those angels, as it were, to be round about the children, his children, will he forsake thee?

Oh, the wisdom of God in this. We little realize how we are protected and by the Lord.

I believe some of us can testify of it. Not a single shaft can eat unless the God of love sees it.

Fear not, I have redeemed thee. Be not dismayed, for I am thy God. I will help thee, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Another sweet promise in Hebrews, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. There's the precious promises and many others recorded in the scriptures.

[ 27 : 09 ] My grace is sufficient for thee. I will guide thee with mine eye. I will bring thee even to the haven of rest.

Yea, dear friends, this prayer still ascends into heaven from the heart of his people. Forsake me not, forsake me not.

when we are in the precious presence of God, when the Holy Spirit is working within, when we feel a little of the sweetness of the gospel, we may then turn our prayer from this, forsake me not, into the prayer.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. who hath redeemed thy soul and so on. Forsake me not, O Lord.

And the sadness, and can I say, you and I, we look in one direction, heavenward. We know that this one is able, the Lord is able.

[ 28 : 23 ] Amen. Oh, the wisdom. Something couched very deep here, if we might rightly view it, forsake me not, O Lord.

David wasn't looking to himself, wasn't looking to our flesh. I'll go further. Jesus was looking in the right direction, heavenward to his Father.

Have we been brought off an arm of flesh? Are we looking to the creature? Do you think you can manage the case yourself? We cannot.

We cannot. Without him we can do nothing. not in these spiritual things. Forsake me not, O Lord. We are looking in the right direction.

If we look downward, we shall not find the help to look upward. That's where the help cometh from, O Lord. Oh, there's a fool that resides in Jesus' our head and ever abides to answer our need.

[ 29 : 49 ] O Lord, some of you may be in some trial this day, this morning, some trial, may be laying with weight upon thy spirit.

The Lord has his crosses, shall I say, for his people to carry. yes, there laid, as it were, at the door.

There's a voice from heaven, this is thine, this is for thee, my child, my son, my daughter, this cross at thy door is for you, is to be carried.

Oh, what a mercy it is, if we are unable to take up that cross and carry it with patience, with our eyes heavenward.

And if so, I'm sure we shall come with the prophet of Micah when he said, I will bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him.

[ 31 : 05 ] Forsake me not, O Lord. Forsake me not when I come down to the end, the end of our day on earth.

Behold, behold, when the soul will be separated from the body, the earthly tabernacle. Forsake me not, Lord.

Just that moment when I shall need thee, greatly need thee. Why? Why to take my poor spirit to the realms of bliss?

Forsake me not, O Lord. All my desires are before thee. Nothing is hid from him. The next clause in our text, O my God.

Though David felt to be somewhat forsaken, he knew this. The God of Israel was his God.

[ 32 : 10 ] O my God. He claimed him as his God. Why? Why, David, had proved it so many, many times previously.

So of you, I trust I have. many times in the years that have passed, you have proved that he was thy God. Not only in the things of profit, but in the things of grace.

I've hinted this morning, that if we know that we are sinners, if we have been convinced of sin, if there's been a wound in our spirit, that how of conviction come into our souls, by the power of the spirit, there will be a wound.

There will be a wound. And hasn't that wound been healed? Go back to those days, it may be many years ago, when the Lord commenced that work in your soul, showed you his holiness, and showed you also that you are poor, wretched, undone sin.

can you remember those days? When he wounded you, but hasn't that wound been healed?

[ 33 : 36 ] That's come to the point, dear friends, that's come to the remedy, is that wound still open? Hasn't it been healed?

my mind goes to that man who came down from Jerusalem to Jericho.

He's going in the wrong direction. Jerusalem would have been a much better place to have dwelt in, but he is going down to Jericho, and he fell among thieves.

Yes, they came, they stripped him, they wounded him, they left him off dying. That's what the law will do. The law convinces, and you're laid low, they'll leave you dying, and you need the gospel, you need that good Samaritan.

here he is in the text. Oh my God. Can you remember those days when you felt to be stripped of everything, nothing in my hand I bring, nothing to bring, a poor helpless sinner, wounded, wounded.

- [ 35 : 04 ] How many years you've been like it. I fear, I trust, each of us will be able to say, well we wasn't many years in that experience because we proved that the good Samaritan had come along, and he did not come just where you were.
- You never had to go to him, he came to you, and he looked upon you, looked upon you in sympathy, in love, he saw the wound, hasn't he healed him?
- did he not pour in that grace, love, and blood into that wound within thy soul? Isn't it healed? If so, I believe you and I will be able to say in some measure with David, oh my God, my God.
- And perhaps there's been many times from that day to this that the Lord has given you a little, a little of his righteousness, a little of his spirit, a little of his love.
- It's raised a hope within thy heart, it's strengthened your faith, and at times you've been unable to say, he's my God. Again, the Selma, in that 23rd Selma, what did he say?
- [ 36 : 36 ] The Lord is my shepherd. Yet David came here, forsake me not. As I said this morning, dear friends, isn't it a comfort when we are unable to walk, as it were, in somewhat in the same paths and experience the same things as David did?
- David's now in heaven. And it gives us a hope that we are traveling in the same footsteps, and the same footsteps as their forefathers. And let me go a little further in the footsteps of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- He said, forsake me not, O Lord. O my God. Well, I believe some of us have been unable to say and claim him as our God, our Savior, when he has spoken into our heart.
- when he has given us some word, some word, fear not, I have redeemed.
- O, when we are unable to draw near to him in prayer, and the Lord draws near to us, and we feel that sweetness of his presence, then we can raise our faith and say, O my God is my God.
- [ 38 : 03 ] You may have heard me say this before, but I can remember the first time when I could say from the heart, he's my God. You say, when was I?
- when he spoke to me, the same words as he spake to Jeremiah, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore with loving kindness I have drawn thee, the wound was healed, and I could say, he's my God, without a fear in my heart.
- Oh, for more days such as that, and these sweet experiences when the Lord draws so near and into our hearts that we can claim him as our God, the Lord is my shepherd, said David.
- Be not far from me. Be not far from me. Again, we must go back to the Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, how he needed his Father's help as he was so near to that hour of death.
- Be not far from me. Be with me. Go to Calvary with me. We understand there was an angel sent by the Father from heaven to strengthen him.
- [ 39 : 31 ] To strengthen him. Be not far from me. That prayer was heard in heaven. That prayer was heard by the Father. And the Father sent the angel to be with his dear beloved son to strengthen him.
- Be not far from me. me. No doubt David breathed out this prayer when he was threatened by his enemy's sword.
- And his own son also. Be not far from me, Lord. My enemies around me threatening to take my life.
- I may be near death. Be not far from me. We know but little of this experience. We have not the enemies, the enemy within, I agree.
- Satan also without, and he's ready to deceive us, and he would destroy us if possible. So these words in some measure can come in our experience.



[ 40 : 46 ] Be not far from me, O Lord. Be not far from me. Yes, and if we rightly know ourselves, and what poor things we are, we shall need the Lord to be with us continually to hold us and to keep us, to keep us in the right frame of mind, to keep us from sinning.

Be not far from me. Otherwise, I shall drop away, soon I shall perhaps backslide and turn my back upon thee.

Be not far from me, Lord. And as I said, David, he needed the Lord to be with him continually when he went before that great Philistine.

He commenced, as it were, to go in his own strength, but he realized his strength was in the Lord. The battle was of the Lord, not me, says David.

And so he went in faith and with no doubt this prayer in his heart, be not far from me, Lord, I shall need thy help. You may be entering into some sore affliction or some trial, and here's the word, here's the prayer, be not far from me, Lord, I shall need thee in this affliction, I shall need thee in this trouble, I shall need thee in this storm, can't do without thee, be not far from me.

[ 42 : 21 ] I believe this is the language of Zion, the language of the Lord's people. It's a prayer, and all texts are a prayer, forsake me not, O Lord, O my God, be not far from me.

It's an urgent case as David make haste, make haste. You think the Lord is offended with his dear people when they cry unto him and say make haste off?

No, no. And yet sometimes he keeps us waiting, does he not? That the case is urgent, the cross is heavy, the burden, know not how to carry it, make haste, O Lord, make haste, come, come to help me, says David, make haste.

The case is urgent, can't do without me. My dear friends, you know it's good to come here. I believe it brings glory to his name when he sees his child, his daughter and his son, helpless, laying at his feet, can't do anything.

Why the poor woman who had that disease for those many years she was brought here, she tried everything, everything fine, earthly physician, no, no remedy.

[ 44 : 01 ] Eventually she came to Jesus, make haste, Lord, the affliction is so sore, can't do without me, though remedy is indeed, why the poor woman had tried everything, spent all she got, empty pocket, heart full of grief, terribly afflicted, make haste, Lord, make haste, and as she was enabled to touch the hem of his garment, all that living faith, if I can only, as it were, touch Christ, if I'm only able by living faith to touch the hem of his garment, I shall find virtue, make haste, Lord, can't do without me.

Another dear woman came there, and she breathed out that short prayer, Lord, help me. That dear man, we read of him the prophecy of Isaiah, Ezekiah, he was another, set thine house in order, for thou shall die and not live, make haste, Lord, make haste, he turned his face to the wall and wept, forsake me not.

Very words of our text, as it were, a very substance of it. Lord, I am oppressed, undertake for me, make haste to help me. O Lord, my salvation.

We are leaving. Amen. Amen.