

Communion Meditation – Psalm 37

Psalm 37.25-26

Persecuted but not Forsaken

May 20th, 2012

v25a ~ “I have been young, and now am old”

- This is a psalm of David ~ It must have been written later in life

v25b ~ “I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread”

- **Heb 13.5** ~ Quotes OT “I will never leave you nor forsake you”
 - **Deut 31.6** ~ Same words Moses spoke to Joshua
 - **Josh 1.5** ~ God repeated the phrase to Joshua
- But in David’s own life neither of these statements is true
 - David wrote of being forsaken and he did beg bread
 - **Ps 22.1** ~ “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
 - **1 Sam 21.7** ~ Ahimelech gave David & his men the holy bread
 - You could say David did not beg for the bread he received
 - But he and his men were in dire straits ~ He needed help . . .
 - He wrote in **Psalm 22** of being forsaken by God ~ Christ’s words also
- Writer of Hebrews expands this promise to all Christians – everywhere
 - Does this mean then that a Christian will never be in want or in need?

Are the righteous at times forsaken ~ and must they beg for bread?

- If the righteous are forsaken it is temporary (*persecution, testing or rebuke*)
 - **1 Cor 5.5** ~ Believer delivered to Satan for destruction of the flesh
 - Such an action is for 1) a believer’s ultimate good and 2) God’s glory
- If the righteous are begging bread it is also temporary
 - **Read Luke 7.19-23** ~ Lazarus and the rich man
 - Lazarus was sick and unable to work (**v20** “full of sores” “was laid”)

v26ab ~ “He is ever merciful & lends & his descendants are blessed”

- Our setbacks and afflictions should not lead us to self-pity and bitterness
- **2 Cor 4.16-18** ~ “.. our light affliction .. is working for us a far more ..”
- Generosity is a measure of your forgiveness & righteousness

We should expect opposition from unbelievers & for God to test our faith & character
Yet we must respond as God directs us to ~ without rancor or bitterness