

BE GRACIOUS TO ME

Mutual Consideration

PSALM 41:1–2

TO THE CHOIRMASTER. A PSALM OF DAVID. Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.

OPENING

INTRODUCTION

1. In what ways does the New Testament commend to our use in the Christian Church the Old Testament book of Psalms? See Luke 20:41–44; Matthew 27:46; Luke 24:44–47; Acts 13:32–35; Colossians 3:16.
2. As we read through Psalm 41, it is clear that David has been going through a rough time. Scan the section headings given in 2 Samuel 11–19. What events provide the background for Psalm 41? How is awareness of these events helpful as we seek to understand this psalm?
3. According to Luke 11:27–28; Matthew 11:4–6; and Matthew 25:33–34, what are the greatest blessings disciples of Christ can enjoy?
4. In what sense is Jesus “the one” who is “blessed” and “considers” us “poor,” miserable sinners? See Matthew 21:9; Galatians 3:13–16; and Luke 4:16–19.
5. It seems very odd to suggest that Jesus could be identified as “the poor” in Psalm 41:1, but what do 2 Corinthians 8:9 and Philippians 2:5–8 say about Him?

CONCLUSION

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy. (*LSB* 376:2)

CLOSING

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, in contrition, we today enter the holy season of Lent and set our hearts to meditate on the sufferings and death that You endured to save us. We thank You for considering us poor, miserable sinners and for delivering us, protecting us, and keeping us alive in Your kingdom. Preserve us from the will of our enemies and bless us with a safe entrance into the promised land of heaven when our last hour comes; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen