

# -LIFE BY THE WORD MINISTRIES-

Wednesday, September 23, 2009  
PSALM 41

Text:

## “WE SHOULD CARE FOR THE WEAK”

### INTRODUCTION:

Would you like God to deliver you from all your troubles.....to protect you from harm.....to preserve your life.....to bless you in the land.....to deliver you from your foes.....to sustain you on your sickbed.....to restore your health? Then have regard yourself for those who are weak. That is the message of Psalm 41:1-3.

### ILLUSTRATION:

One morning R.C. Chapman, a devout Christian, was asked how he was feeling. "I'm burdened this morning!" was his reply. But his happy countenance contradicted his words. So the questioner exclaimed in surprise, "Are you really burdened, Mr. Chapman?" "Yes, but it's a wonderful burden--it's an overabundance of blessings for which I cannot find enough time or words to express my gratitude!" Seeing the puzzled look on the face of his friend, Chapman added with a smile, "I am referring to Psalm 68:19, which fully describes my condition. In that verse the Father in heaven reminds us that He 'daily loads us with benefits.'"

### **I. GOD OFTEN REMINDED THE ISRAELITES TO CARE FOR THE WEAK.... V.1-3**

*17 “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe.*

*18 “He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing.*

*19 “Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*

*(Deuteronomy 10:17-19, NKJV).*

*17 “You shall not pervert justice due the stranger or the fatherless, nor take a widow’s garment as a pledge.*

*18 “But you shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this thing.*

*19 “When you reap your harvest in your field, and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.*

*20 “When you beat your olive trees, you shall not go over the boughs again; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.*

*21 “When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, you shall not glean it afterward; it shall be for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow.*

*(Deuteronomy 24:17-21, NKJV).*

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God cares much for the oppressed. He cares for orphans. He is concerned over the loneliness and weakness of widows. And He wants His people to have the same love and concern.

## II. JESUS MADE A POINT OF HELPING THE WEAK. V.4-9

### ILLUSTRATION:

When Jan Paderewski was to leave his native Poland to play his first recital in London, he asked an influential compatriot to give him a letter of introduction to a leading figure in Britain's musical world, who might be of assistance should anything go amiss. The letter was handed to him in a sealed envelope. He hoped that everything would proceed smoothly and he would not have to use it.

He did not; his debut was a success and no snags developed. Some years later, while going through his papers, he came upon the letter and opened it. It read:

"This will introduce Jan Paderewski, who plays the piano, for which he demonstrates no conspicuous talent."  
*Bits & Pieces*, January 9, 1992, p. 1- 2.

*23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.*

*24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.*

*(Matthew 4:23, 24, NKJV).*

*2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples  
3 and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"*

*4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:*

*5 "The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them.*

*(Matthew 11:2-5, NKJV).*

*41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.*

*42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.*

*43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;*

*44 "for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."*

*(Mark 12:41-44, NKJV).*

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11 Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.

12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

16 Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

17 And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

(Luke 7:11-17, NKJV).

### **III. GOD HAS COMMANDED HIS PEOPLE TO HELP THE WEAK... V.10-13**

I am always reminded that I must be aware of my weaknesses in order to have compassion on those around me who are weak. It is through my weaknesses that I am able to see His strength. 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

(Ephesians 6:10, NKJV).

14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

(1 Thessalonians 5:14, NKJV).

3 Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

4 Deliver the poor and needy; Free them from the hand of the wicked.

(Psalms 82:3, 4, NKJV).

Isa 1:17 learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.

1 My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.

2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes,

3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool,"

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*4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?*

*5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?*

*(James 2:1-5, NKJV).*

**Conclusion:** In Psalm 41, King David sang of God's blessings on us in THIS life, if we will care for the weak. In the New Testament, Jesus promised rewards in THE LIFE TO COME to all who will care for the weak.

*34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*

*35 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in;*

*36 'I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'*

*37 "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink?*

*38 'When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You?*

*39 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?'*

*40 "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

*(Matthew 25:34-40, NKJV).*

*13 "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind.*

*14 "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."*

*(Luke 14:13, 14, NKJV).*

May the Lord help each of us to have God's heart of compassion on the poor, the fatherless, the widows, and all who are in trouble. Amen.