

Psalm 039 - Penitential Psalm: A Prayer About Life's Priorities

Psalm 39

[To the chief Musician, even to Jeduthun, A Psalm of David.]

A Prayer about Life's Priorities

1 I said, "I will keep watch over my ways So that I do not sin with my tongue; **I will keep watch over my mouth as with a muzzle** While the wicked are in my presence."

1 I said, "I will guard my ways That I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle While the wicked are in my presence."

1 I told myself, "I will keep watch over my tongue to keep from sinning. I will muzzle my mouth when the wicked are around."

1 I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me.

- "...I will keep watch over my mouth as with a muzzle" - he wanted to speak out but deemed it best to remain silent (Eccl 3:7)

— He "put a zipper on his mouth" but that just intensified his heartburn; He didn't argue with God (v9)

2 I was mute and silent, I refused to say *even something* good, And my pain was stirred up.

2 I was mute and silent, I refrained *even* from good, And my sorrow grew worse.

2 I was as silent as a mute person; I said nothing, not even something good, and my distress deepened.

2 I was dumb with silence, I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred.

3 My heart was hot within me, While I was musing the fire burned; *Then* I spoke with my tongue:

3 My heart was hot within me, While I was musing the fire burned; *Then* I spoke with my tongue:

3 My heart within me became incensed; as I thought about it, the fire burned. Then I spoke out:

3 My heart was hot within me, while I was musing the fire burned: then spake I with my tongue,

4 "LORD, let me know my end, And what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am.

4 "LORD, make me to know my end And what is the extent of my days; Let me know how transient I am.

4 "LORD, let me know how my life ends, and the standard by which you will measure my days, whatever it is! Then I will know how transient my life is.

4 LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.

5 "Behold, You have made my days *like* hand widths, And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; Certainly all mankind standing is a mere breath. *Selah*

5 "Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths, And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight; Surely every man at his best is a mere breath. *Selah*.

5 Look, you have made my life span fit in your hand; It is nothing compared to yours. Surely every person at their best is a puff of wind.

5 Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. *Selah*.

6 "Certainly every person walks around as a fleeting shadow; They certainly make an uproar for nothing; He amasses *riches* and does not know who will gather them.

6 "Surely every man walks about as a phantom; Surely they make an uproar for nothing; He amasses *riches* and does not know who will gather them.

6 In fact, people walk around as shadows. Surely, they busy themselves for nothing, heaping up possessions but not knowing who will get them.

6 Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them.

7 "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

7 "And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You.

7 How long, LORD, will I wait expectantly? I have placed my hope in you.

7 And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.

8 "Save me from all my wrongdoings; Do not make me an *object of* reproach for the foolish.

8 "Deliver me from all my transgressions; Make me not the reproach of the foolish.

8 Deliver me from all my transgressions, and do not let fools scorn me."

8 Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish

9 "I have become mute, I do not open my mouth, Because it is You who have done *it*.

9 "I have become mute, I do not open my mouth, Because it is You who have done *it*.
9 I remain silent; I do not open my mouth, for you are the one who acted.
9 I was dumb, I opened not my mouth; because thou didst it.

10 "Remove Your plague from me; Because of the opposition of Your hand I am perishing.
10 "Remove Your plague from me; Because of the opposition of Your hand I am perishing.
10 Stop scourging me, since I have been crushed by your heavy hand.
10 Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand.

11 "With rebukes You punish a person for wrongdoing; You consume like a moth what is precious to him; Certainly all mankind is mere breath! *Selah*
11 "With reproofs You chasten a man for iniquity; You consume as a moth what is precious to him; Surely every man is a mere breath. *Selah*.
11 You rebuke by chastening a man with the consequence of iniquities; you destroy what is attractive to him, as one would treat a moth. Indeed, every person is a puff of wind.
11 When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. *Selah*.

God whispers to us in our pleasures; speaks in our conscience; but shouts in our pains: it is His megaphone to arouse a deaf world. —C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose. — Jim Elliot

12 "Hear my prayer, LORD, and listen to my cry for help; Do not be silent to my tears; For I am a stranger with You, One who lives abroad, like all my fathers.

12 "Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a stranger with You, A sojourner like all my fathers.

12 Hear my prayer, LORD, pay attention to my cry, and do not ignore my tears. I am an alien in your presence, a stranger just like my ancestors were.

12 Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.

13 "Turn Your eyes away from me, that I may become cheerful *again* Before I depart and am no more."

13 "Turn Your gaze away from me, that I may smile *again* Before I depart and am no more."

13 Stop looking at me with chastisement, so I can smile again, before I depart and am no more.

13 O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.