

# STUDY FIVE

PSALM 41 || ONE WHO HAS TURNED AGAINST ME

Appropriate to David's words, Green Carpet Players have rendered Psalm 41 as a retro lament. They only sing verses 9-11, but it's enough to give the mood. You'll find the files online at <http://new.mpc.org.au/singwithjesus> ... click on the link to Psalm 41. Can you spot the chief cause of David's pain?

What did you think?  
How did the song  
make you feel?

Have you ever been let  
down or betrayed by a  
friend? What was the  
impact?



**ISRAELITE IDEAL**

Now listen to or read the whole of Psalm 41. It'll help you if you note 2 things. First, the word 'weak' in verse 1 carries the meaning of 'poor' or 'lowly'. Second, keep in mind the psalm's structure below.

Praise for God's <b>protection</b>	v1-3
Request for <b>healing</b>	v4
<u>Enemies</u> are saying	v5-9
Request for <b>healing</b>	v10
Praise for God's <b>protection</b>	v11-13

1. What confidence does the first section of the psalm (v1-3) offer to the one who cares for the poor and lowly?
2. What dilemma has David wrestled with in the "Request for healing" section? v4
3. David has asked the LORD for mercy. What do his enemies wish for him instead? (v5-8)
4. What has David's friend wished for him? (v9)
5. Ultimately, what does David receive? How does this relate to his statement about God in verse 1?

## ISRAEL'S FAILURE & JESUS' FULFILMENT

From the start of his public activity, through to his climactic final arrival in Jerusalem, we've seen Jesus fulfil the psalms better than anyone ever could. Even if David or another psalmist originally wrote about themselves, Jesus does it better. We'll see the same for Psalm 41 as Jesus becomes the lowliest of humble servants at his final meal:

**Read John 13:2-5 & 12-18**

6. What did Jesus do when he realised that it was nearing time for him to die and rise? (v3)
7. In John 13, who fills the role of 'the lowly' from Psalm 41?
8. And who plays the treacherous friend?
9. Jesus lowers himself to **serve his friends**, but Judas **betrays his friend** Jesus when Jesus is at his lowest point. Interestingly, Jesus is not threatened by either of these situations. Instead what does Psalm 41 lead Jesus to expect will happen?

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to **betray Jesus**. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him ...

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: '**He who shared my bread has turned against me.**'

**SING WITH JESUS**

Jesus' knowledge of the Psalms didn't just tell him that he was destined to rule. It also gave him a script for his life that included being made low then being betrayed by a close friend. But instead of despising the lowly, he followed that path. He humbled himself and became lowly for us.

10. What attitude do you have to the lowly? Is there anyone, or any task, that in your heart of hearts you feel is beneath you?
  
11. How could you 'lower yourself' and 'sacrifice' your important time to do something to bless that person?
  
12. People often don't notice when you serve them in a 'lowly' way, and that can be discouraging. From Psalm 41 (v11-13), and Jesus' fulfilment of it, how does God regard 'lowly servants'?

Read Psalm 41 aloud together to encourage each other, remembering how Jesus has served you, and reminding your heart to imitate your master by serving too.