

Honest to God

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- ‘Do you promise before God?’ was a phrase I was used to hearing as a child!
- ‘Honestly before God’ was the required response!
- We can be honest with God. Even about the bad bits

Psalm 39

1 I said, 'I will watch my ways
and keep my tongue from sin;
I will put a muzzle on my mouth
while in the presence of the wicked.'

2 So I remained utterly silent,
not even saying anything good.

But my anguish increased;

3 my heart grew hot within me.
While I meditated, the fire burned;
then I spoke with my tongue:

Psalm 39

4 'Show me, Lord, my life's end
and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is.

5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you.
Everyone is but a breath,
even those who seem secure.

Selah

Psalm 39

6 'Surely everyone goes around like a mere
phantom;
in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth
without knowing whose it will finally be.

Psalm 39

7 'But now, Lord, what do I look for?

My hope is in you.

8 Save me from all my transgressions;
do not make me the scorn of fools.

9 I was silent; I would not open my mouth,
for you are the one who has done this.

10 Remove your scourge from me;
I am overcome by the blow of your hand.

11 When you rebuke and discipline anyone for their sin,
you consume their wealth like a moth –
surely everyone is but a breath.

Selah

Psalm 39

12 'Hear my prayer, Lord,
listen to my cry for help;
do not be deaf to my weeping.

I dwell with you as a foreigner,
a stranger, as all my ancestors were.

13 Look away from me, that I may enjoy life
again

before I depart and am no more.'

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and keep my tongue from sin;
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then I spoke with my tongue:

'Keep My Tongue From Sin'

- David's heart is in pain yet still he wanted to keep himself from the mistake of sinning in word
- Our tongues can do real damage
 - The power of death and life (Pr 18:21)
 - Matt 15:11 "What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them."
 - Ja 1:26 If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue... this person's religion is worthless.
 - Ja 3:5 the tongue is a small member... How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

'I Remained Utterly Silent'

- We do well to bite our tongues sometimes
- Especially in the presence of those who will misunderstand or misuse what we say
- I will... it is our responsibility

My Anguish Increased

- If we can no longer speak of what is good then our silence has gone too far
- If we do not open the pressure valve at the right times then there will be an explosion!
- A sound course of action may be pushed to the extreme, and become a fault (Spurgeon)
- We must find the right outlet to share our inner battles

'I Spoke With My Mouth'

- The damn could no longer hold back the torrent of pain, emotion and questions

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'Show Me Lord My Life End'

- He speaks to The Lord – there is no better place to go
 - We do well to share struggles with each others wisely at times.
 - God can take it! He already knows our heart!
- Is he despairing of life? Either that or seeking comfort in the shortness of it.
- We can long for one thing one day, and the opposite the next!
- Life is short – SELAH

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Psalm 39

6 'Surely everyone goes around like a mere
phantom;
in vain they rush about, heaping up wealth
without knowing whose it will finally be.

'In Vain They Rush About'

- What are you rushing about for?
- 'It all goes back in the box' (Jon Ortberg)
- There is one commodity you can give away that you can not have replaced – time
- All that is worth truly investing is that which goes into the vaults of eternity!

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.

— *Charles Studd* —



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My hope is in you.

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What Do I Look For? My Hope is in You

- Sometimes it is not until we get to the end of ourselves and of everything else that we look for what, or who, we really need.
- Psalm 146:5 “Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God.”
- In the despair of the darkest season of your life
 - Be honest, be real, cry, shout
 - But always make sure you know that He is your hope

Save Me...

- From all my transgressions
- From the scorn of fools
- From judgment
- From sin and ill discipline
- The Lord is not inclined to consume us but to consume anything in our lives that would keep us from His love and purposes

surely everyone is but a breath

Life is short

Selah

Psalm 39

12 'Hear my prayer, Lord, (HE DOES)
listen to my cry for help; (HE WILL)
do not be deaf to my weeping. (HE NEVER IS)
I dwell with you as a foreigner, (WITH US)
a stranger, as all my ancestors were.

13 Look away from me, that I may enjoy life again
before I depart and am no more.'

Driven Into Him

- ‘to him we should be driven by our disappointments. If the world be nothing but vanity, may God deliver us from having or seeking our portion in it. When creature-confidences fail, it is our comfort that we have a God to go to, a God to trust in.’ (Matthew Henry)

'Hear My Prayer'

Psalm 40 I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust