

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day May 22nd 1910

Text: Psalm 12 verse 5: For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

Morning Sermon

What an unspeakable mercy if you have expressed in your hymn of praise the desire of your soul. The Lord will confirm your interest in the deep things of His kingdom. God's people want the witness; they cannot take things for granted that all is well.

*Assure my conscience of her part
In the Redeemer's blood;
And bear Thy witness with my heart,
That I am born of God. (Isaac Watts)*

It is no small mercy, friends, to be in the school of Christ, to be taught of the Spirit. All God's children shall be taught of Him. I do not suppose you would find one of the sons of Adam who would confess their spiritual poverty in a state of nature. They do not feel their need of the things of God. But there is a people under the sun who feel how spiritually poor they are. And they feel their need of the mercy of God in a precious Christ.

God is a sovereign. Men are born poor; men are born rich. Some are born in the workhouse; some are born to inheritance. God is a sovereign, and He deals sovereignly in bringing in His redeemed. And you will find, for the most part, God has chosen the poor of this world. What a mercy to be poor in the world, if we belong to God's people. I would rather be a poor man with a grain of grace, than to be a rich man and know nothing of the things of God. He makes them rich in Christ. He calls them by His grace, and magnifies in them the riches of His grace.

The Lord Jesus Christ looked upon His disciples, and said, *Blessed be ye poor*. They had forsaken all for Jesus Christ. If the Lord would speak this to any of us this morning –

*Ye humble souls, complain no more;
Let faith survey your future store.
How happy, how divinely blest,
The sacred words of truth attest. (Richard Burnham)*

It would be impossible for me to set before you the blessedness of that man who is a partaker of grace. *Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*. Though they are poor and oppressed, they will –

*... live to reach the place
Where He unveils His lovely face,
Where all His blessings you behold,
And sing His name to harps of gold. (Isaac Watts)*

Perhaps some of you have not many pounds, or even shillings. Yet you may be among the blessed poor. It is the poor that have the gospel preached unto them.

*The gospel bears my spirit up;
A faithful and unchanging God
Lays the foundation of my hope,
In oaths, and promises, and blood. (Isaac Watts)*

And they have meat to eat the world knows nothing of. And they are poor as far as the things of this world are concerned, but rich in faith, for they have grace. *I am rich, says one, to all the intents of bliss.*

The promises are for you. It is no small mercy to be brought to know spiritual poverty; to be brought into need. The Lord brings sinners to feel how poor they are. Sometimes you groan because you are so poor you cannot pray. I am glad you do. I wish every one in this house of prayer was as poor as he could be. Nothing would help a man to preach so much as to stand and preach the grace of God to those poor ones.

Oh friends, look at the character. The Lord cares for these poor and needy ones. However great their need may be, He cares for them. He loves them, and protects them. He will never leave them. Oh the blessedness of this character! Oh blessed poor, blessed souls that feel their need! If you were not poor, you would not come to the Lord Jesus Christ. Sinners must come to the cross before they are stripped of all their fancied meetness. He gives them to feel they are spiritually poor; He shows them their shape and make.

*The poorer the wretch, the welcomer here;
Come needy, come guilty, come loathsome and bare;
You can't come too filthy; come just as you are. (Joseph Hart)*

“Oh,” say you, “I do need washing in the blood of Christ. I do need righteousness. I do need the things of the kingdom of God’s grace.” I am glad it is so.

Now, these poor and needy ones, they know something of sorrow and oppression. They know something of oppression. *For the sighing of the needy, and the oppression of the poor.* And God sees the oppression of His people, and He will deliver them. Men sometimes oppress the poor of the flock. And perhaps there is not a godly man but who knows something of oppression. The wicked may oppress you. You ransack God’s Word from Genesis to Revelation, and you will find that man has always known what it is to be oppressed. I would not choose the ways of the oppressed. *Ye rich men, weep and howl.* The Lord will one day avenge His people since sometimes men do oppress these poor and needy ones. They know what it is to be oppressed by men of the world who hate the word of God. They despise them and set them at nought, and look upon them as the scum of the earth.

Then you consider this path; your dear Redeemer trod it before you. I have thought of it sometimes. Here is the dear Son of God, and those who are oppressed by the devil – He hears them; He saw the oppressed. And God’s people tread the same path that God’s people have trod in all ages.

*Our glorious Leader claims our praise
For His own pattern given;
While the long cloud of witnesses
Shows the same path to heaven. (Isaac Watts)*

Sin oppresses them. There is not one in this house of prayer that knows the grace of God but who knows something of being oppressed by sin.

Now let me put it to you in this homely way. Has not sin oppressed you through the week? Have there not been moments when sin has hung heavy on your soul? Sin oppresses the poor and needy. Yes, it does. I do not believe there is one that has the grace of God but who would live without it if he could. It will never have dominion over them. But how it oppresses them! We groan, being burdened. Oh sin! I would live without it, but it cleaves closer to me than my skin.

Sometimes you will find this to be the case, and you will not have repentance. You know what I am telling you is true. You feel its guilt; you know the burden of sin; and yet you have no repentance.

Are there not moments when this is the case? And you are oppressed with fears and darkness, and you cannot believe.

You will –

*... live to reach the place
Where He unveils His lovely face,
Where all His beauties you behold,
And sing His name to harps of gold. (Isaac Watts)*

“No,” you say, “sin will be my ruin. I shall fall one day by it.” This is a solemn position to be in. Yes, the living know something about it. Yea, while you are in this solemn position, the wicked watch over you. They are ready to puff at you, and breathe out threatenings against you. And how often you are so poor without godly sorrow for sin. This is the path the poor are called to tread. It is the path the saints of God have trodden. You sink in soul feeling. I well remember this, that for some time I was so oppressed without being able to obtain repentance, I used to look at my dear pastor and the deacons and members of the church, and say, “They will go to heaven, but I shall go to hell.” This state lasted for some time until He delivered me by these words: *New life we must receive*. Then there was a groaning unto the Lord: “Lord, make known this unto me. Oh reveal Thy pardoning mercy.” And He is still the same, and He makes known unto His people. We may say more on this when we come to speak of the sighing of the needy.

How family trials oppress the poor and the needy. The Lord’s people know what it is to be oppressed with family trials, and as to how they will be brought honourably through. It is one of the greatest trials a godly man has. How tried and how oppressed with fears as to whether we should be enabled to pay our way. Many of the Lord’s people have been unable to do this. I do not say these things to encourage anyone with debts, but for the comfort of those who are unable to pay their way. Both riches and honour come to them, and God reigneth after all. All comes from God, and is God’s. And He is rich to all the intents of bliss. If such an one dies in debt, he dies in God’s debt.

*A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offerings to bring.
The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;
My Saviour’s obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view. (Augustus Toplady)*

Sometimes these poor and needy ones are oppressed by the wicked one. He comes perhaps when sin oppressed you. Hardness of heart and you feel so poor and destitute. He comes and takes advantage of it, and brings you down. *Rejoice not, O mine enemy*. But the hour will come when you shall say it. Men may puff at you. Saul of Tarsus puffed at them before he was called by the grace of God. Here you are, oppressed, so poor and needy, and so oppressed. This is the path the saints of God have to tread. It is. It is the path they have ever trod. It is the right path, though they cannot always see the path. *’Tis by faith and not by sight*. But the oppressed soul is so needy in the hour of oppression, so full of sighing and groaning. Perhaps you groan day and night. *Should not God avenge His own elect? Yea, He will avenge them speedily*.

Afternoon Sermon

Text: Psalm 12 verse 5: For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

The Lord has left in Zion an afflicted and poor people. And it is a mercy to belong to those poor and afflicted ones. You have been singing:

*Their sufferings then will reach a close,
And heaven afford them sweet repose. (Thomas Kelly)*

Old things will soon pass away. There will be no groaning in heaven, and these things will for ever pass away.

We tried to speak a few things this morning of the sighing of the poor and needy. The poor and the rich must together love the Lord as the Maker of them all. The Lord has chosen, for the most part, the poor of this world, and magnifies in them the riches of His grace. And they know something of spiritual need. And the time comes when the Lord supplies this need. He gives them to taste He is gracious. Then they know something after this of teaching – the path of affliction and sorrow.

We mentioned some things that oppress the Lord's poor. Wicked men oppress the Lord's people. Sin oppresses the Lord's family. They groan under the sense of its filth and guilt. And often they are so poor they cannot produce repentance. The enemy takes advantage; he comes in and he roars. And we feel sometimes we could adopt the language of one now in Glory:

*Every door is shut but one,
And that is mercy's door. (Newton/Cowper)*

Mercy's door is ever open, and these needy ones know what it is to groan for what they feel working within. The needy, they groan, they sigh. *We that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened.*(2 Corinthians 5:4)

You know something of what it is to groan day and night. The Psalmist speaks of spending his life with sighing. Jeremiah spoke of his sighs: *They have heard that I sigh: there is none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that Thou hast done it...Let all their wickedness come before them...for my sighs are many and my heart is faint. (Lamentations 1:21,22)* Have you had a companion in David? Why, sometimes we are ready to say: "God has forsaken us." I know this has been the path I have had to tread, and I believe there are those here who have trodden the path. *Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? (Psalm 42:9)* It seems at times as though the Lord is unmindful of our sighs. You then feel at the ends of the earth.

This God is faithful; He will not suffer you to be tried more than you are able to bear; He will make the way for you. *Thy shoes shall be iron and brass. (Deuteronomy 33:25)* The Lord is determined to put forth His almighty power to be enquired of by the house of Israel. I believe with all my heart God's people know something of sighing and groaning, because of the abominations that are done in the land. You know the man with an inkhorn. He had to put a mark on those that sigh for the abominations that are done in the land. *(Ezekiel 9:2-4)*

You must be tried, but He will deliver you. God is to arise and go to the help of His people. Unbelief says He will not appear. And you cannot see how it is possible for the Lord to arise and deliver you. It is the path the Lord's people have ever been called to tread. But the Lord has never left them. And He says: *Who art thou, that thou shouldst be afraid of a man that should die...? (Isaiah 51:12)* Oh what a good God these poor and afflicted ones have!

*This tried almighty hand
Is raised for their defence. (Philip Doddridge)*

*How can I sink with such a prop,
As holds the world and all things up?*

Now, the Lord hears the sighing of the needy. He hears their groans in heaven His dwelling place. There is a voice, if I may so speak, in the groan of the needy. It seems sometimes this is all we can do. Am I a companion to you? All we can do is to sigh. You feel poor; you sigh. You walk the street, and you sigh. Ah, there is a prayer in that sigh. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth the groans that cannot be uttered. Do you think, friends, He is unmindful of their groans? Is He not the same God? Does He not hear the groanings of the needy ones? He does; and there is a set time for their deliverance. He will give faith to those that are oppressed by the oppressor.

You have here, friends, the Lord's own promise. Can you want anything better than this? All the promises of Jesus Christ are Yea and Amen. It is not man that speaks here. It is God that hath spoken. It is the mighty God that speaks, and He says: *For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise.* So when the time comes, He arises and comes forth. Speedily after the manner of men, the Lord arises for the help of His people. I love the '*I wills*' of Jehovah. His promises are *Yea and Amen.* (2 Corinthians 1:20) This must be so, because fears and doubts oppress them. The devil oppresses you. And you are so needy in soul feeling. You need the Lord's mercy, and you sigh before Him. Here is the promise; it is for you. You find the promise of God. You are the character, and He is faithful to fulfil it.

For the oppression of the poor...now will I arise, saith the LORD. I do not know what were the feelings of the disciples when the storm arose, and Jesus was asleep. They were afraid, but One was asleep.

*His head was on a pillow laid,
And He was fast asleep.*

And this is how it is sometimes in the experience of the Lord's children – as though His head was on a pillow, and He was asleep. *Master, carest Thou not that we perish?* And He arises and comes forth, and rebukes the wind, *and there was a great calm.* (Mark 4:37-41) And what must have been the feelings of the disciples then? He will arise for the help of His people. He has declared it in His Word. *Now,* says the Lord, *I will arise* for the help of the needy ones.

God will set these oppressed ones in high places. Oh what a mercy! God does hear, and sets them in high places upon the Rock of eternal ages. The Lord liveth, blessed be my Rock. He sets the people in high places. He gives them to realise that He still lives. He still lives to bring them forth through all the paths He has appointed them into the haven of eternal rest. *Safety,* says the Psalmist, *is of the LORD.* We are only safe as the Lord sets us in safe places. Why, He sets them where no enemy can reach them - in the cleft of the Rock. When the Lord sets the poor sinner here, he is delivered for the time being, and he sings a song unto the Lord. *This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.* (Psalm 118:23) *They that go down to the sea in ships... these see His wonders in the deep.* (Psalm 107:23,24)

You are brought into solemn spots and places that you may know the power of the Lord. He gives them to realise that He sets them in safety. There is a man that breathes out threatenings against him. *Now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set him in safety.* And when the Lord does thus arise, your soul makes its boast in the Lord. He is your strong habitation, your shield. Ah, it is so plain when God appears and sets them *in safety from him that puffeth at him.* *Safe in the arms of Jesus.* Ah, then you can smile at your foes. And you can ascribe strong might and power unto God, and unto the Lamb which sits upon the throne. Salvation, from first to last, is of the Lord. The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord. The Lord shall help them, and deliver them from the wicked, because they trust in Him.

It is a mercy that the Lord is our defence. Sometimes we have nowhere else to fly. *I will set him* – no uncertainty about it. *I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.* And when the Lord does this, what a calm! Where are your oppressors then? Oh, what a change! Oh friends, we are at a point

when this is brought about. It is *the LORD's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes*. I do not see that it was more marvellous when He brought them through the Red Sea. I never expected such a deliverance as this. *For He shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. (Psalm 72:12)* Oh, think for one moment of the power of God. What are men? What are devils? He is stronger than all men or devils. He has redeemed Jacob. And He that is for you is more than all that be against you. *If God be for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)* There will be moments when God will set you in safety from him that puffeth at you. Then you can sa

*Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on His gentle breast.*

Safe from the reach of all enemies. How safe are they for whom the Lord arises for their help, and sets them in safety!

There is one portion of God's Word that comes to my mind: *The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. (Romans 16:20)* There is the bruise of Satan under your feet. For the time being you are overcomers. They have the victory through the blood of the Lamb. And so this soul feeds upon Christ, lives upon Christ. My life, my strength, my Redeemer, my all and in all. *Whom have I in heaven but Thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee. (Psalm 73:25)*

But oh to think of what is to come! Oh, the time is to come when you will be overcomers. You will be set in high places in those days. The ransomed of the Lord shall praise Him. As I have already hinted, there will be no more oppression, no more sighing – all the former things have for ever passed away. It is the Lord that will set him in safety. Child of God, it must come to pass in your experience. God cannot lie. You cannot see how it is to be done – that is another thing altogether. “Oh, I wish I could take it,” you say. “I cannot.” That shows how poor and needy you are. But God can give it you. *That Thou givest them they gather. (Psalm 104:28)* *Thou satisfiest the desire of every living thing. (Psalm 145:16)*

You know God speaks the word to you. Perhaps some of you have got a portion marked, or a hymn marked. If you were honest enough, you would say, “That has been made a blessing to me.” I call in that moment the promise my own. Have you not some word? “Why,” you say, “God has spoken the very words you are reading. And yet I feel so far off from the promise that I wonder at times if ever it was real.” It is just like this. If you had not these concerns, I should say it was not real. I do not believe God has ever given you a promise but what He tries it. And when He tries it, there is no prospect of its ever being fulfilled (in soul feeling). God had given Joseph a promise, and you a promise. And the fulfilment of that promise, as you are a living man, it will come to pass. Not one promise will fail. *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for He is faithful that promised.) (Hebrews 10:23)* You take your stand here, sometimes groaning as you do. God has said it. Ah, you trust Him sometimes when everything seems to be gone. The fulfilment of the promise – here you take your stand. God has promised it. He will bring it to pass. He will set you in safety, experimentally in safety, from him that puffeth at you.
Amen.