

## Psalm 41:1-4

Psalm 41:1-4 talks about the blessings God gives to those who remember the poor and the sick. Verse 3 says: “The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness” - a remarkable and wonderful promise!

The second part of that promise is especially remarkable in that it says something we probably would not dare to say if it were not found in God’s Word. When we read: “thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness” the Word is comparing God to a nurse as she cares for her patients, watching for signs of relapse, giving them their medicines, changing their bed and doing as much as she possible can to see that they are comfortable. One writer says: “What, doth the Lord turn bedmaker to his sick children? Herein is love indeed.”

We know, of course, that God does not in some miraculous way make the beds we lie on in the hospital or at home when we are ill. He leaves that to those who are able and willing to do it, nurses, family members and others.

Rather, He makes our bed spiritually and nurses us spiritually, making sure that we are well-cared-for and comfortable spiritually. He makes sure that the soul is at rest even when the body cannot be. He soothes our spiritual pains even when the pains of the body do not go away. He makes sure that finally we fall asleep in Jesus, even when we have suffered through endless sleepless nights: “Grace gives patience, and God’s smile gives peace, and the bed is made soft because the man’s heart is content; the pillows are downy because the head is peaceful.”

In doing that He is as watchful and careful as the best of nurses, for He never slumbers or sleeps, knows our needs before we ask, is able as Almighty God to give us spiritual ease and peace, and willing to do so for the sake of Christ His Son. He has the best of soul-healing medications in the “balm of Gilead” and the atoning blood of Christ. He has the best of all assistants in the Comforter Himself and the softest of beds in His own everlasting arms.

In visiting the poor and the sick we experience this. We see again and again that God does care for His people and give them help in time of need. We see that he prepares them for death and makes it possible for them to know that all things work together for good to those who love Him. And when we see that then we know the truth of Psalm 41:3, that the Lord will do the same for us when we are poor and afflicted.

This is all for Christ’s sake, as the same writer says: “Our dear and ever blessed Lord Jesus, though in all respects and inheritor of this promise, for our sakes condescended to forego the blessing, and died on a cross and not upon a bed; yet, even there, he was after a while upheld and cheered by the Lord his God, so that he died in triumph.

Blessed, indeed, is he that considereth the poor!

Pastor Hanko

## MEMORABLE QUOTE

When I visited one day, as he was dying, my beloved friend Benjamin Parsons, I said, “How are you to-day, Sir?” He said, “My head is resting very sweetly on three pillows - infinite power, infinite love, and infinite wisdom.” Preaching in the Canterbury Hall, in Brighton, I mentioned this some time since; and many month after I was requested to call upon a poor but holy young woman, apparently dying. She said, “I felt I must see you before I died. I heard you tell the story of Benjamin Parsons and his three pillows; and when I went through a surgical operation, and it was very cruel, I was leaning my head on pillows, and as they were taking them away I said, ‘Mayn’t I keep them?’ The surgeon said, ‘No, my dear, we must take them away.’ ‘But,’ said I, ‘you can’t take away Benjamin Parsons three pillows. I can lay my head on infinite power, infinite love, and infinite wisdom.’”

Paxton Hood, *Dark Sayings on a Harp*, 1865,  
in Charles Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*, 1885