

## Forgiveness and Pleading (Psalm 38)

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### Introduction: the distortion of everything

### A Plea for Mercy

- The wrath of God
  
- The ugliness of sin

### The God who Sees

### The God of Salvation

## Psalm 38 (NIV)

### A psalm of David. A petition.

- <sup>1</sup> O, Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger  
or discipline me in your wrath.
- <sup>2</sup> For your arrows have pierced me,  
and your hand has come down upon me.
- <sup>3</sup> Because of your wrath there is no health in my body;  
my bones have no soundness because of my sin.
- <sup>4</sup> My guilt has overwhelmed me  
like a burden too heavy to bear.
- <sup>5</sup> My wounds fester and are loathsome  
because of my sinful folly.
- <sup>6</sup> I am bowed down and brought very low;  
all day long I go about mourning.
- <sup>7</sup> My back is filled with searing pain;  
there is no health in my body.
- <sup>8</sup> I am feeble and utterly crushed;  
I groan in anguish of heart.
- <sup>9</sup> All my longings lie open before you, O Lord;  
my sighing is not hidden from you.
- <sup>10</sup> My heart pounds, my strength fails me;  
even the light has gone from my eyes.
- <sup>11</sup> My friends and companions avoid me because of my  
wounds;  
my neighbors stay far away.
- <sup>12</sup> Those who want to kill me set their traps,  
those who would harm me talk of my ruin;  
all day long they plot deception.
- <sup>13</sup> I am like a deaf man, who cannot hear,  
like a mute, who cannot open his mouth;
- <sup>14</sup> I have become like a man who does not hear,  
whose mouth can offer no reply.

<sup>15</sup>I will wait for you, O Lord;  
you will answer, O Lord my God.

<sup>16</sup>For I said, "Do not let them gloat  
or exalt themselves over me when my foot slips."

<sup>17</sup>For I am about to fall,  
and my pain is ever with me.

<sup>18</sup>I confess my iniquity;  
I am troubled by my sin.

<sup>19</sup>Many are those who are my vigorous enemies<sup>a</sup>;  
those who hate me without reason are numerous.

<sup>20</sup>Those who repay my good with evil  
lodge accusations against me,  
slander me when I pursue what is good.

<sup>21</sup>O Lord, do not forsake me;  
do not be far from me, O my God.

<sup>22</sup>Come quickly to help me,  
O Lord my Savior.

**Footnotes:**

a. [Psalm 38:1](#) In Hebrew texts 38:1-22 is numbered 38:2-23.