

Psalm 38 A Psalm of David (for the memorial offering)

The high cost of sin

¹ Dear LORD,

Please don't discipline me or punish me when You are so angry You could go into a fit of rage. ² I ask this because You have put a lot of pressure on me in order to get me to repent, and Your words have convicted me about the magnitude of my guilt. ³ The weight of my sin has literally made me sick, and it is taking its toll on my body. ⁴ My sins have piled up to where I am in over my head, and they are more than I can bear. ⁵ My foolish actions have wounded me, and it just keeps getting worse and worse. ⁶ I am bent over under the weight of them, and my whole day is filled with mourning because of my condition. ⁷ My body aches, and I have lost my health. ⁸ All of this has left me feeble and completely worn out. I groan because of the disturbing emotions filling my heart. ⁹ LORD, I have not tried to hide my sighing from You because all I want out of life is to know You in a personal, intimate way. ¹⁰ Right now my heart throbs, my strength has failed, and the former light in my eyes has dimmed.

¹¹ My friends, my family, and the ones I love the most have lost all interest in associating with me because of my wretched condition. ¹² Then too, people who hate me set traps with the hope of catching me and causing my demise. All day long they contrive more ways to betray my trust¹ with the goal of destroying me. ¹³⁻¹⁴ These people will continue attacking me, but I will not argue with them or say a word in my defense. In fact, I will appear as though I am deaf. ¹⁵ I don't need to defend myself because I trust in the LORD and wait for Him to answer my prayer for help. ¹⁶ I have said, "I hope these people won't see me fall down. If they do, they will rejoice that they have been successful at destroying me." ¹⁷ This is important because I am at the brink of falling down to stay, and sorrow has continually filled my heart. ¹⁸ I confess that I have sinned, and I am sorry I did.

¹⁹ I believe that my faith in the LORD will bring about ultimate victory even though my enemies are strong and vigorous. There are a lot of them who hate me without just cause, ²⁰ and they repay me evil for good simply because I live in a good and godly manner. ²¹ O LORD, please don't turn your back on me, and don't stand a long ways off. ²² Instead, please hurry to help me, because You are the God of my salvation!

¹ Definition of "Treachery" www.dictionary.com/browse/treachery