

## Psalm 39

There was a time when I was overcome with emotional pain and anguish, and I wanted desperately to tell the whole world how unfairly I had been treated. Even though I longed to tell them, I knew within myself that as a believer in Jesus Christ the Messiah<sup>1</sup>, I could not do that. So, <sup>1</sup> I said to myself,

### ***1) Can a believer find comfort from the world or from within himself? No!***

“I will be extremely careful to guard my whole manner of living so that I do not sin with my mouth by griping and complaining about my troubles. In fact, I will put a muzzle over my mouth as though it were duct taped shut. By doing so I will not say anything adverse about my troubles in the presence of unbelievers.”

<sup>2</sup> Now once I had made up my mind, I was committed to doing just that. So, to be on the safe side I didn't say anything when I was where unbelievers could hear me. In fact, I was so adamant about the whole thing that I didn't even mention the goodness of the LORD in their presence. I thought that by being silent things would get better, but the longer I went without venting my frustrations the worse my pain and anguish became. <sup>3</sup> In time, everything with me was inflamed as I grew angry and bitter about how unfairly I had been treated. The longer I dwelt upon my troubles the more angry I became because dwelling upon them only added fuel to the fire. When I couldn't stand the hurting any longer it dawned upon me that I was seeking to vent my frustration in the wrong place. Once I recognized this truth, I turned my attention to the LORD and said,

### ***2) Can a believer find comfort from the LORD? Yes!***

<sup>4</sup> “LORD Jesus,

Please give me the ability to see and understand when I will die, and then give me the ability to see and understand that my stay on earth is a very brief and temporary one at best. <sup>5</sup> After all, every day of my life is as brief as the vapor that appears when I blow into my hands on a cold day. In Your eyes the length of my life in light of eternity is so short that it must seem as though it never took place. Without doubt, every man at his best lives in this physical body as briefly as the steam that vapors from the kettle.”

Now you who are reading this, stop for a moment, and ponder the depths of the truth I just shared with you.

<sup>6</sup> Every man walking on this earth appears to have substance but really has none in light of eternity<sup>2</sup>. Men brag about who they are and what they want to accomplish during their lifetime, and they spend a great deal of their energies trying to amass great wealth. Whatever possessions they are able to acquire they call their own, but unfortunately, like Solomon, they have no idea who will possess them once they are dead and gone.

## **A) Trust Him**

<sup>7</sup> “LORD Jesus,

You are the One I trust for deliverance from all of my troubles. You are my hope, and I patiently wait for You to rescue me. <sup>8</sup> I agree with You that I have sinned by envying the wicked and desiring to be like them. Please forgive this sin, and take away the guilt it has generated. Don't make me an object of scorn and ridicule in the eyes of foolish people who think they are always right and have a closed mind to spiritual truths<sup>3</sup>. <sup>9</sup> I have come to recognize my error and have shut my mouth. I will say no more because now I see that You are the One who allowed all of these troubles to come upon me. The people who actually did those hurtful and mean things to me were merely pawns in Your hand. <sup>10</sup> Even so, LORD, I pray that You would take these troubles away from me, because the trials You have placed upon me are so severe that I feel like I am going to die if You don't remove them. <sup>11</sup> I know that You instruct, discipline, and chasten a man as harshly as needed for him to see his sin and repent. When You feel it is necessary, You even go so far as to take away everything that is precious to him. Your main reason for doing this is so that he will understand that he must repent now because he may not have time to do it later. This is important because every man's life is as brief as the steam that vapors from the kettle.”

Now you who are reading this, stop for a moment and ponder the depths of the truth I just shared with you.

## **B) Call upon Him**

<sup>12</sup> Dear LORD,

Please listen with interest to my prayer, and carefully consider my cry for deliverance from all of my troubles. Do not be silent towards me since I have cried until my eyes are bloodshot. I know that You have seen my tears, so please save me. I admit that I am a stranger and a pilgrim on the earth just like my fathers before me. <sup>13</sup> In spite of this fact, please turn Your gaze of displeasure and rebuke away from me, and look upon me with pleasure like You have in the past. If You do, I can recover from these hurts and once again rejoice in life before I die and go to the grave.

<sup>1</sup> Since Christ said in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me,” the name “LORD Jesus” or “Jesus Christ, the Messiah” has been used.

<sup>2</sup> Dictionary for the word “phantom.” [www.dictionary.com/browse/phantom](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/phantom)

<sup>3</sup> Meaning of the word “fool” as used here – Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Copyright © 1980 by Moody Press, 1285a, Vol. 2, page 574