

New Song of Praise

**Readings:
Psalm 40:1-5**

Preached: Grant Nuss

At: Protea Valley Family Church

On: 5th July 2009

www.pvfc.org.za

A New Song of Praise:

As a songwriter I have always loved the Psalms, the hymnbook of Israel. The writings of David, Solomon and others continue to enthrall me. Whilst I was raised on Elvis by a mother who was a great musician and singer, I have to agree though that "What Elvis was to rock 'n roll, David was to the blues".

In the Psalms, just like the blues, lament, injustice, or express longing for a better life are prevalent. In them we are taken from times of crying out to God whilst in the proverbial miry clay, to times of rejoicing, praise, and singing a new song to the Lord who has come through for us – again!

The patterns of life recurring in the Psalms are those of getting in the pits, and getting out again which is not unlike what happens to most of us in life for the most part. God has prepared Himself one great song of praise throughout eternity, and those who enter the community of God join in this song.

Psalm 40 is one of my most favourite of the Psalms because it speaks of things – NEW - and new songs of praise to be sung. Turn with me to Psalm 40 and let's read the first five verses together;

Psalm 40:1-5;

¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

³He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told."

The text tells us that; "He (God) put a new song in David's mouth". Now new too me means fresh. New brings with it a sense of excitement. We love new things don't we?

We men love to sit with a Heineken and a packet of biltong in both hands watching the rugby; while our wives love to go shopping, even if it is of the window variety. They love new things – and so do we!

Newness brings with it excitement! We love the feel, the taste, and the smell of things that are new. Like the smell of leather in a new BMW – hey Belinda! There is nothing like it!

The bible is strewn with great passages about new things. New things were as good and exciting in biblical times as they are now. Let's look at a few;

Ezekiel 36:26 says; ²⁶"And I will give you a **new** heart, and a **new** spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Jacques; this was before heart transplants! What it means is not replacing the physical heart, but that a spiritual heart is put within us.

Our heart of stone is replaced with one that is tender, soft, and pliable to do the will of God.

Then **John 3:3** says; ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Born again here means a **new** birth. Not a physical birth, but a spiritual birth.

An agent was showing a prospective buyer a warehouse in the city which had been empty for years. It had been vandalized, the doors were damaged, windows smashed, and there was litter all over the floor.

As agents do, he stated that he would replace the windows and the doors, and bring in a builder to correct any structural damage, and remove the litter.

"Forget about the repairs," the buyer said. "When I buy this place, I'm going to build something completely different. Something brand new. I don't want the building; I want the site."

God has a new plan for your life and for mine. He wants to do something new with us. He is not interested in patching up our old sinful life. It means absolutely nothing to Him.

That is why He starts a new job inside our hearts. We will be like newborn babies, a new creation, and He will build a new life in us, according to His plan.

When we become God's own, the old life is a thing of the past a fact we read of in **2 Corinthians 5:17**;

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he **is a new** creation. The old has passed away; behold, the **new** has come."

And **Colossians 3:10** says it this way; "Put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator".

God makes all things new. All He wants is the site, and the permission to build on it.

We are a new creation with a new nature, living according to God's will, and giving Him permission to build on our site, to do a work in us. The new nature God gives us should make us desire righteousness.

God wants to transform us from within into a new image, the image of Jesus Christ. In order for this too happen a few very important things have to take place. Let's track what we have heard this morning.

We need a new heart and a new spirit, and have to undergo a new birth. When this happens we become a new creation with a new nature desiring righteousness, and becoming more like Christ.

But that's not all. **Isaiah 65:17** says ¹⁷"For behold, I create **new** heavens and a **new** earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind."

God is going to make all things new. He will replace the old earth that has been marred by sin, with a new one.

This will be for those of us with new hearts, new spirits, who have undergone a new birth, new creatures with new natures, who have been prepared to live in new heavens and a new earth.

If new things bring with them new life, a sense of freshness, a sense of excitement, so should they bring a sense of newness to the way we praise and worship the Lord for making all things new shouldn't it?

We recall **Verse 3** as saying; "He put a **new** song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD."

So, our situation is not unlike that of David as we read in the first two verses where he says;

¹I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

²He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.”

Just as God delivered David, so too does He deliver us from every sort of pit imaginable.

When He does, we respond with a new song of praise to Him. David was drawn up out of a pit and immediately sang a new song of praise to God! While standing firmly on the Rock a 'new song' is sung!

A new song was appropriate because the Lord had intervened in David's experience in a fresh and exciting way. He does the same for us today in the 21st Century.

But, there is something here for us to ponder on in our quiet time; remember when Israel was thirsty in the desert with no water in sight? Well, it was a desert I suppose - What did they do?

Numbers 21:16-17; The Lord said to Moses, “Gather the people together, so that I may give them water.” Then Israel sang this song: "Spring up, O well!—Sing to it!"

They sang! They sang while they were still thirsty! They hadn't seen any water yet! They hadn't been lifted out of that particular 'pit' yet! But, in faith, based on God's word, they gathered together and sang!

John 20:29; ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen (me) and yet have believed."

That is faith! Singing whilst still in the pit is an act of faith, being certain in spirit, before any evidence is seen, but having faith that God will come through for us again, requires a faith we should all strive for.

So, because we are excited by all the new things that God has done, and continues to do in our lives, the way we praise and worship Him should reflect this in a completely new way too.

Because we are different to how we were, the songs, both old and new, should be sung differently. Why? Because we are different!

We have a new heart a new spirit, a new nature, we are a new creation. We should experience new feelings of excitement when we sing.

We should be singing with new meaning, new passion, and with adoration from our hearts.

Psalms 103:1; ¹With all my heart I praise the LORD, and with all that I am I praise his holy name!"

When you think of whom you are singing too and about, it should, in truth, cause you to say “**WOW**”! If that doesn't excite us then something is clearly wrong within us.

Every time I sing songs of praise and worship I say to myself; “I am not worthy to be praising You God. But You love me just the same, and You are enthroned on the praises of a sinner like me.”

Think about that for a minute: God, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, and you and I, actually longs to hear our feeble attempts at praising and worshipping Him!

He longs to have a part in our lives. He longs to guide us, to love us, and to bless us. If nothing else, that alone should excite us and cause us to sing a new song with absolute love and passion from our hearts.

Prior to being saved perhaps you were dragged to church by your parents and sang songs which meant absolutely nothing to you. But when you accepted Jesus into your life, it all changed.

Suddenly it was different! The old songs made sense. It was as if you were singing a new song that you had never sung before! Scripture now also made sense as you read it with new eyes, and a new heart.

Many in churches today. half – heartedly, sing the way they have always sung, look at their watches and yawn, wondering when it’s all going to end. Perhaps thinking of Sunday lunch!

Verse 3 again; “He has put a new song in my mouth.”

You may ask; “What if I don’t like singing or can’t sing? Perhaps music is not my forte are there other ways to ‘sing’ to God because of the goodness He has lavished onto me?”

Worship is a heart attitude. God is standing right in front of you here saying "I'm here!". He is waiting for us to come to Him. It is for us to change our focus from being conscious of what others might think.

And say; “Here I am Lord. I make a decision right now to lay down my life at Your feet and I will exalt You, I will praise You. Instead of looking at myself I'll look at You Lord.”

If your five-year-old daughter comes to you and sings “You Are My Sunshine” radically out of tune, and your gifted teenager comes and plays you a song they composed for you, would you love one of them more than the other?”

Of course not! One may sound more pleasant to your ear, but your heart would rejoice with the love that resounded. We humans miss the point, God is not impressed with our talents, He wants our hearts.

If we feel we can’t sing perhaps you express your new song on your knees, or standing, praying the words of the songs silently during the worship service in praise to God.

We were created to praise God. Our praise and testimonies focus on what He has done for us. He says that if people see this song and hear it that they will turn and praise God too.

That’s why in the second half of verse three the psalmist writes;” Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.”

When God gives us deliverance from the pit and puts a new song in our mouth, His aim is not only for our benefit, but also for the benefit of others through us.

Let us never view our own song of praise as being where God's mercies end. God aims for us to sing others into the kingdom.

How does this happen? They see what has happened in our lives, they fear, and then put their trust in God.

What do they see? They see a person who was humble in distress and never lost hope knowing that God would come through for them again.

They see too that when these folk were delivered out of their situation, they immediately gave God the glory.

And, by the grace of God, many will make the final move and put their trust in the Lord too. The songs of the rescued saints, our testimonies are the ultimate means of evangelism. When last did you witness to an unbeliever?

However, there may be some of us here this morning that may be thinking;

“Well, that’s all wonderful Grant, but what if I don’t feel new? “I am still trapped by much of the same baggage that I came to Jesus with.

I still am in bondage. It doesn’t seem as though God has delivered me from the pit yet.”

We remember Rob’s sermon which highlighted the fact that Israel who were enslaved in Egypt, kept crying out to God, who didn’t appear to hear them.

They too didn’t feel any sense of newness. They were stuck in a tight place. Their situation seemed hopeless. They were in the pit.

The message God sent to them through Moses was that; “God hears our groaning, God remembers, God sees, and God knows”. Our only hope of deliverance is through God we cannot crawl out of the pit through any effort of our own.

God has to reach in and yank us out. Hopefully we will not have to wait around 210 years like Israel did. But we need to trust Him, He is in control. He is at work in our situation.

When we are in the pits with the King, and we cry out to Him like a helpless child; we then wait patiently for Him to come through for us in His perfect time.

When this happens we sing a new song to His grace so people can see and fear and put their trust in Him for they notice what He has done for us.

Psalm 98:1 says; “Sing to the Lord a new song - for He has done marvelous things”.

We praise God for what He has done, and what He is going to do. We testify to the victory of what God has done in our lives.

These new mercies, grace, and forgiveness, call for the songs that we sing to be sung in a fresh, new way.

So, may the songs that we sing, albeit in our cars, in the shower, and here at church be sung with newness, freshness, excitement, with renewed passion in our hearts, like we have never sung them before.

Why? Because “He has inclined to me and heard my cry. He has drawn me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.”

In conclusion, I would like for you and I to leave here today having been reminded that;

1. God has given us a **new** heart and He has put a **new** spirit within us.
2. He has given us **new** birth.
3. We are now a **new** creation with a **new** nature that the old has passed away; and the **new** has come.
4. And He says; “behold, I create **new** heavens and a **new** earth for you who have been given this **new** lease on life, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind again.
5. All He asks for in return for delivering us out of our pits whatever they were, is that the new song He has put in your and my mouth; the new song of praise and worship due Him for the new things He has done in our lives, we sing from our hearts with love and adoration, in praise of Him.

So, may we determine this morning to sing this new song from the heart, with heartfelt thanks, in adoration and praise to Him? Whether it be on our knees quietly praying the words;

Whether it be standing in reverent awe whispering the words, and whether it be singing at the top of our voices.

And whether it is singing at the top of our voices, perhaps raising our hands, clapping, and even dancing! In truth, He deserves every single ounce of our praise.