

The Sound Of Silence

*“Show me, Lord, my life’s end and the number of my days;
let me know how fleeting my life is. [5] You have made my days a mere handbreadth;
the span of my years is as nothing before you. Everyone is but a breath,
even those who seem secure. [9] I was silent; I would not open my mouth,
for you are the one who has done this...[12]Hear my prayer,
Lord, listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping.”
Psalm 39:4-5,9,12 (NIV)*

On New Year’s Day 1966 Simon and Garfunkel’s song The Sound Of Silence hit #1 in the USA’s musical world. The song laments the way people talk – but say nothing, listen – but do not hear. It is a sorrowful song that wishes people would be honest and truly communicate with each other.

In our verses today, the Psalmist is also sorrowful about silence and the lack of connection among people and with the Lord. He moves back and forth regarding speaking out at the wickedness he sees all around him. For a time he resolved to remain silent and he did. Then he found he could no longer be silent in the presence of such wickedness. So He spoke.

Then he reflected a little more and realized that even when wickedness seems to reign that ultimately God is behind history and was writing His story through the lives of everyone (Psalm

39:9).

How often we wish to get our hands on God’s timetable and bring forward the day of judgment and the ushering in of the eternal state. We cry out about the injustices in life, and – like the Psalmist – say to the Lord “...listen to my cry for help; do not be deaf to my weeping.”

So the weary Psalmist goes from silence to a full expression of his sorrow and pain. Do we not experience the same things as this poor man? Do we not have times when we remain silent not knowing what to pray for? Then we burst out with our cry of pain and sorrow. We plead with the Lord to end the misery around us. We beg for relief from our suffering. We ask the Lord to stop turning a deaf ear to our prayers.

Have you come to this place in life? Do you suffer in silence and keep your burden to yourself? Do you weep alone when no one sees the tears except you and the

Lord? I know many of my readers have experienced this sound of silence.

Let the words flow. Let the torrent of ideas and thoughts rise to the surface – do not restrain them. Always remember that the Creator Who made you with ears to hear, hears every word you say to Him. He has called on you to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Stop suffering in silence. Be bold like the Psalmist and let it all out before the Lord. If necessary confess your confusion at how He is running His world. Tell Him what you see happening disturbs you greatly. Call on Him to start listening to you (Psalm 39:12). Tell Him you will give Him no peace until He answers your petitions and gives you relief from your situation. Galatians 6:9 (NIV) “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”