

6 January, 2008.

Thanksgiving Sunday

**HE BROUGHT ME UP ALSO OUT OF THE MIRY CLAY AND SET MY FEET
UPON THE A ROCK**

TEXT: Ps. 40: 1-3

Introduction:

Thank the Lord for His faithfulness and for speaking to our father in the Lord, Pastor E.A. Adeboye, that this is our year of NEXT LEVEL and I do pray that each and every one of us shall get to the NEXT LEVEL this year in the name of Jesus. Already in Oxford, the Lord has blessed us immensely by the visit of our Daddy, Pastor Adeboye, during the last Sunday of November, hence, we are already operating at the next level and the word of the Lord will come to pass in our lives in the name of Jesus.

Today is very crucial in the life of everyone that is a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, because it is the day, worldwide, that we celebrate the goodness of the Lord and His faithfulness as we come with our thanksgiving to the Lord. The Lord will accept our praises and thanksgiving in the name of Jesus.

Looking partly at this Psalm, there are a few things we can quickly point out for our blessing:

1. It is a song of a man who has patiently waited for the Lord. I found out recently while on a programme at the University of Cambridge that the reason that sick people are called 'patient' is because they needed actually to wait helplessly until help would come and they had no option other than to wait for the help. That is probably why here in the United Kingdom, we are all used to a long waiting period before we can have a medical procedure and all the government can do through the NHS is to reduce the waiting period. Have you really waited patiently for the Lord? Have you allowed Him to have His way in your situation? Have you tried to help the Lord the way Abraham did to get Ishmael? Have you done it your own way and gave the credit to the Lord or has He done it and you have refused to acknowledge His faithfulness? If you have waited patiently for the Lord, then you should be able to sing God's song in your mouth today and for ever more. If you have not waited patiently for Him, this is the lesson in obedience that you need to learn with me.

2. The Lord heard David. Looking at Ps. 39:12, he called upon the Lord to hear his prayers and attend unto his cries. He charged the Lord not to hold His peace at his tears. The Lord assures us in Is. 49: 14-16 (Read) that He will not forsake us. The Lord answered David. He has also answered us and has been gracious unto us as His people. We need to sing a new song to the Lord.
3. The mighty hand of the Lord has also done a lot of work of deliverance in our life in the years past. He brought us out of horrible pit and miry clay. What is a horrible pit? How far have we gone down? The deeper the pit, the mightier the hand of the Lord has been to deliver us. We have survived poverty, lack, sickness, disappointment, joblessness, etc, all to the glory of our God.
4. The Lord has set our feet upon a rock. Who is the rock? Jesus is the only solid rock. He is the rock of ages, the rock of offence and the chief corner stone. He is the only solid foundation against every wind of life. That is where the Lord has lifted us. The Bible says in Eph. 2:6, that the Lord has raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.
5. The Lord has established my goings. The Lord has been faithful to me. The Bible says that the Lord will perfect all that concerns me. His mercy endures for ever and He will not forsake the work of His hands (Ps. 138:8).
6. He has therefore put a new song in my mouth; even praise to our God. Many shall see what the Lord has done in my life and fear and shall trust the Lord. As the Lord uses us as channels of blessings, He will continue to lift us up to the glory of His Holy name. Hence, we need to give Him thanks with songs of praise in our mouth.

WE SHALL ALL MOVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL IN THE NAME OF JESUS.