



**Studies in Psalms** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 41

11/12/12

Vs. 1-4 speak of God’s consideration to those who consider the poor;  
Vs. 5-8 show the heartlessness of enemies who eagerly await David’s death;  
Vs. 9 is a prophesy of Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus Christ;  
Vs. 10-13 anticipate God’s mercy and support when needed.

**Verses 1-4:** If the cause of being poor is a refusal to work, then Christians are forbidden to contribute (2 Thessalonians 3:10)! Otherwise, many will have hardship along the road of life, and “Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy,” Jesus said in Matthew 5:7. He was continuing God’s wisdom on the subject through Solomon: “He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy” Proverbs 14:31. David wrote these verses for himself, for Jesus Christ never would have said: “Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You” (Psalm 41:4; compare John 8:46).

**Verses 5-8:** One can identify his/her enemies because they: verse 5) are eager to be rid of you; verse 6) lie to your face and spy out weaknesses to spread to others; verse 7) gather to whisper against you; verse 8) know you suffer with “an evil disease” but hope you not only fail to recover, but it kills you! If this describes any of our “friends,” we need new friends!

**Verse 9:** This is the only verse of this chapter that cannot refer to David, but is one of his prophecies about Jesus Christ! It’s true that David had a counselor, Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15:12), who joined a conspiracy against David (2 Samuel 15:31), and advised David’s enemies on how to humiliate David (2 Samuel 16:20-23), but when his advice was not followed, Ahithophel hanged himself (2 Samuel 17:23). This might cause some to think Psalm 41:9 might first have applied to David’s situation. Jesus Christ told His apostles, “I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me’” John 13:18. When Jesus “chose” the Twelve, He chose Judas (John 6:70). However the fact that Jesus quoted this particular verse and introduced it with “that the Scripture might be fulfilled” puts the cap on speculation. Psalm 41:9 had no “fulfillment” until Jesus Christ said the event of Judas eating bread with Him fulfilled it! If not, why not?

**Verses 10-13:** David’s proof that he pleased God was in the fact that his enemies would be punished by David’s return to health. Jesus, on the other hand, said, “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him” John 8:29. Only God is “From everlasting to everlasting,” and therefore can promise “eternal life” (John 10:27-28; 17:3).

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**All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.**