Saturday 25th April

Psalm 40: 1-3

I waited patiently for the Lord;
    he turned to me and heard my cry.
He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
    out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
    and gave me a firm place to stand.
He put a new song in my mouth,
    a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the Lord
    and put their trust in him.

Very many decades ago, my very tiny grandmother was in a position where she needed to rescue my rather larger grandfather from quicksand. Thankfully the rescue was a success! And as you would imagine this dramatic act of courage has gone down in family history!

The first verses of this Psalm describe a daring rescue: ‘He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.’ If you are following Jesus today, if you know His grace in your life, then this is your testimony too! This has become a part of your family history.

Jesus doesn’t only get down in the pit with us and comfort us in that place. He does that, but he goes beyond. By coming and living as one of us, and by going willingly to the cross, he gets in the pit, and provides a way out of it. He gets slimed, and we get rescued. Thank you Jesus. He wins freedom from the sin, wrong attitudes, bitterness, unforgiveness, addiction, fear and death that drag our us down. Like quicksand, it seems the more we struggle to be free the deeper we sink. The only way out is to hold onto the cross of Christ, confess our inability to save ourselves, and to allow him to pick us up, wash us off, and put our feet on solid ground. All other ground is sinking sand.  And that leads us to a place of rejoicing in Him. When others see the way he has rescued us, then Jesus is recognised for who he is and receives the glory!

*Lord Jesus, thank you so much for your great rescue mission! Thank you that this is no sin or situation that we face which you cannot bring us freedom from it. Thank you for what you have done in my life to set me free! Lord I pray that you would show me today if there is anything in me, any place of unsafe ground [pause in His presence so that he can show you anything that he wants to bring you freedom from today]. Thank you that there is nothing beyond your power to rescue and redeem. We ask you Lord for your grace to live in these days, in such a way that others see, and fear the Lord and put their trust in you – the only firm ground. In Jesus name. Amen*

