

August 23, 2015  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Psalm 39

**“Tough Love”**

**For the choir director, for Jeduthun.**

**A Psalm of David.**

[Outline stolen from Dr. William D. Barrick, Professor of Old Testament at The Master’s Seminary]:

**I. David’s Tormented Silence (1-3)**

**II. David’s Transient Life (4-6)**

**III. David’s Trust-Filled Silence (7-11)**

**IV. David’s Tenuous Life (12-13)**

**So what?**

### Discussion and Application:

1. Who is Jeduthun? (See 1 Chron. 6:31-33; 16:41-42) Why would David dedicate / designate the song for him?
2. What is **tough love**? Why would God need to use tough love in our lives? Give examples of God doing this in the Scriptures.
3. Puritan Thomas Brooks said, **“Where God loves, he afflicts in love, and wherever God afflicts in love there He will, first or last, teach such souls such lessons as shall do them good to all eternity.”** What are some lessons that David learned from God’s tough love in his life? What are some lessons that you have learned?
4. Why was David silent in vv. 1-3? Why was it difficult for him? What was it that was burning inside of him?
5. Why did David want to know how short his life was? What perspective was he trying to gain? (See Job 6:11; 7:7; 14:13; 16:21-22; Ps. 90:12; Eccl. 2:3) What are the benefits of maintaining that perspective? What are you currently doing to obtain / maintain that perspective?
6. What is the significance of v. 6? Why do we focus so much of our lives on gathering things if we don’t even know where they will go when we are gone? Is it wrong to have things? When does it become wrong? Where should our focus be?
7. What does it mean to wait on and hope in the Lord? (See v. 7)
8. According to vv. 7-11, why was God disciplining David? What is the difference between transgressions and iniquity? Are there any transgressions or iniquities in your life that need to be confessed and repented of right now?
9. Why does David use the name “Lord” (adonai) in v. 7 and “LORD” (Yahweh) in v. 12?
10. What is David asking God to do in vv. 12-13? Is he “naming it and claiming it”? What is his attitude? Does God have to do it? What does this tell us about God, His holiness, His justice, and His sovereignty?
11. What is the main lesson you can apply from Psalm 39 this week?