

# Psalms 35:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.

## Analysis

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David's response to enemies' sickness demonstrates covenant love transcending personal grievance. Sackcloth and fasting expressed genuine intercession, yet his prayer 'returned into mine own bosom' suggests either unanswered prayer or blessing rebounding to himself. This models Christ's command to love enemies and pray for persecutors (Matthew 5:44), proving that righteous character persists regardless of others' responses.

## Historical Context

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Sackcloth, coarse goat hair worn during mourning or repentance, physically expressed inner anguish. Ancient Near Eastern culture expected such demonstrations of sympathy, making his enemies' later mockery especially egregious.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. Have you prayed for someone who later hurt you? How did that shape your response?
2. What blessings have 'returned to your bosom' when others rejected your kindness?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֲנִי י'	בְּחִלּוֹתָם	לְבַבִּי וְשִׁי	שָׁק	עֲנֵי יְתִי	
H589	But as for me when they were sick	my clothing	was sackcloth	I humbled	
	H2470	H3830	H8242	H6031	
בְּצוֹם	נַפְשִׁי י'	וְתַפִּלָּתִי י'	עַל	חִיקִי י'	תָּשׁוּב:
with fasting	my soul	and my prayer	H5921	into mine own bosom	returned
H6685	H5315	H8605		H2436	H7725

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 30:25** (Parallel theme): Did not I weep for him that was in trouble? was not my soul grieved for the poor?

**Matthew 10:13** (Parallel theme): And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.

**Matthew 5:44** (Prayer): But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

**Luke 10:6** (Parallel theme): And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

**Leviticus 16:31** (Parallel theme): It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever.

**Leviticus 16:29** (Parallel theme): And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls,

and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you:

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