

## A SEVERE MERCY

*Psalm 38:1-22 // May 3, 2026 AM*

*Yahweh's disciplinary displeasure is a severe mercy.*

**I. His rod causes us to *suffer momentary misery*.**

**II. His rod causes us to *seek momentous mercy*.**

### QUESTIONS FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

1. What did C. S. Lewis mean when he spoke of God's "severe mercy" to his friend? What is mercy, and why is God's mercy sometimes severe?
2. Why must discipline be painful? What do we learn from the pain of God's discipline?
3. How does David describe his painful experience, and why was he undergoing it?
4. At certain points in the psalm David speaks of his guilt, and in other places he speaks of his innocence? How could these both be true? How do each point us to Christ?
5. What is slander? How does David respond to the slander of his enemies? How did Jesus respond to the slander of His enemies?
6. What does the rod of God lead David to seek after? Why?
7. How does God discipline His children today, and what is He after when He disciplines us?

### QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Have I experienced "a severe mercy" from the Lord? What was it, and how did God use it for good in my heart and life?
2. How do God's dealings with His children inform our parenting and how I think about something like gentle parenting?
3. How might I use Psalm 38 to encourage a brother or sister who is under God's fatherly rod?