

Evening Sermon / March 20, 2022 / Psalm 140 “Frustration of Evil Schemes!”

I. *A prayer for deliverance from evil -*

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. ¹ Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men;... Psalm 140:1 A

1. *The first line of this Psalm reads a lot like the Lord’s Prayer –*

¹³ And do not lead us into temptation, **but deliver us from the evil one...** Matthew 6:13 (NKJV)

A. *David was praying against evil men.*

B. *Jesus teaches us to pray against the evil spiritual force behind those evil men –*

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

2. *This evil includes violence – Preserve me from violent men, Psalm 140:1 B*

3. *It is a premeditated, planned, schemed evil – ² Who plan evil things in their hearts; Psalm 140:2 A*

4. *There is a unity, a group of people, who gather, like an army for an evil cause - They continually gather together for war. Psalm 140:2 B*

5. *They are by nature evil liars; their tongues are sharp for lying –*

³ They sharpen their tongues like a serpent; The poison of asps is under their lips. Psalm 140:3

A. *Speaking truth and love is a New Birth, Supernatural thing, lying is as natural to an ungodly person, as poison is natural to an asp, a poisonous snake!*

B. *Yet, they hone and sharpen the skill of LYING!*

II. *A repetition of this prayer, with slightly different wording “Keep me...” meaning ‘watch over me’, ‘guard me’ or ‘protect me’ –*

⁴ Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; Preserve me from violent men, Psalm 140:4

1. *The repetition involved here shows us David’s true heart in this prayer, he really feels in danger, and vulnerable, maybe even afraid ... We don’t typically think of David this way, as he was a great warrior, and yet his strength was GOD, not himself ...*

2. *Keeping from the “hands” of the wicked, means their grip, their control!*

3. *They have “purposed” to make David stumble –*

Who have purposed to make my steps stumble. Psalm 140:4B

4. *They set traps, snares for David –*

⁵ The proud have hidden a snare for me, and cords; They have spread a net by the wayside; They have set traps for me. Psalm 140:4

III. *David continues the same theme in his prayer, but this time expressing his confidence in the LORD's ability to save –*

⁶ I said to the LORD: "You are my God; Hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD. ⁷ O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle. ⁸ Do not grant, O LORD, the desires of the wicked; Do not further his *wicked* scheme, *Lest* they be exalted.
Psalm 140:6-8 (NKJV)

1. *David's great confidence is God is His God ...*
 - A. *He did not rejoice in personal power*
 - B. *Nor superior weapons*
 - C. *Or a bigger army*

Only in God –

³¹ **What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31**

2. *He knows God to be sovereign over the wicked's desires and schemes –*

IV. *David's prayer against the evil men –*

1. *What they speak against David or others, will happen to them –*

⁹ **"As for the head of those who surround me, Let the evil of their lips cover them;**

2. *Burning coals, Hell –*

¹⁰ **Let burning coals fall upon them; Let them be cast into the fire, Into deep pits, that they rise not up again. Psalm 140:10**

3. *The defeat of the slanderer –*

¹ **Let not a slanderer be established in the earth;... Psalm 140:11 A *Don't let his false words be believed, by ANYONE!***

4. *Let evil hunt – Let evil hunt the violent man to overthrow him."* Psalm 140:11 B

V. *David's confidence expressed again, in the LORD's help -*

¹² **I know that the LORD will maintain The cause of the afflicted, *And* justice for the poor.**

¹³ **Surely the righteous shall give thanks to Your name; The upright shall dwell in Your presence.
Psalm 140:12-13**

1. *Not only does the LORD help David, but all afflicted and poor*
2. *God's people, the righteous Thank God, the dwell with Him!*

Evil, violence, lies, poison, traps, and snares, are no match for David's fervent prayers!

2 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV)

⁴ **For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,**