

Evening Sermon Outline – September 22, 2019

“Praying Against Enemies” Psalm 35

I. Prayer for protection against a pursuer – Psalm 35:1-10

1. David would have the Lord:

A. As his lawyer -

Plead my cause, O LORD, with those who strive with me; Psalm 35:1 A
Verse 1.—“Plead,” etc. More literally, litigate, O Lord, with them that litigate against me... Daniel Cresswell

B. As his champion -

Fight against those who fight against me. Psalm 35:1 B

2. As David’s champion, he calls upon the LORD to arm Himself –
Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for my help. Also draw out the spear, and stop those who pursue me. Say to my soul, “I am your salvation.” Psalm 35:2-3

3. He prays quite specifically, practically throwing, through God’s power and prayer, everything but the kitchen sink at his pursuers as they chase him ...

A. Shame and dishonor –

Let those be put to shame and brought to dishonor Who seek after my life; Psalm 35:4 A

Why shame and dishonor? They pursue a righteous man... They pursue someone for no good reason ... see more later in the Psalm!

B. Turned back, brought to confusion -

Let those be turned back and brought to confusion Who plot my hurt. Psalm 35:4 B

C. Like chaff, chased by an angel –

⁵Let them be like chaff before the wind, and let the angel of the LORD chase them. Psalm 35:5 (NKJV)

- Chaff is light, lifeless, and easily blown away
- An angel, especially the Angel of the LORD is exceedingly powerful. The Angel of the LORD fighting against chaff, is an extremely unequal fight –

Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses—all dead. Isaiah 37:36

This is why we read in Scripture –

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

D. As they chase him, he prays:

Let their way be dark and slippery, And let the angel of the LORD pursue them. For without cause they have hidden their net for me in a pit, Which they have dug without cause for my life. Let destruction come upon him unexpectedly, And let his net that he has hidden catch himself; Into that very destruction let him fall.

- *Darkness so they cannot see*
- *Slipperiness so they fall, perhaps repeatedly*
- *That the Angel of the LORD would pursue them*
- *That they would fall into their own trap*

This is what happened to wicked Haman –

Then his wife Zeresh and all his friends said to him, “Let a gallows be made, fifty cubits high, and in the morning suggest to the king that Mordecai be hanged on it; then go merrily with the king to the banquet.” And the thing pleased Haman; so he had the gallows made. Esther 5:14 /

So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the king’s wrath subsided. Esther 7:10

4. David promises personal praise to God for this protection –

And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD; It shall rejoice in His salvation. All my bones shall say, “LORD, who is like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?” Psalm 35:9-10

David’s soul and bones praise, these are his parts that are delivered, saved...

II. *Prayer for perception and overturning of iniquity and unrighteousness – Psalm 35:11-18*

In verse :1, David asked the LORD “plead my cause” this I said was a call for a lawyer, yet his present and most pressing NEED was protection and so that NEED crowds the first part of this Psalm ...

Yet, he still has his lawyer need as well –

Fierce witnesses rise up; They ask me things that I do not know. Psalm 35:11

1. *David’s kind actions toward his enemies are prerequisite to imprecatory prayer –*

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, Matthew 5:44

2. *This is different from what many people think –*

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:18-21

3. *Kind treatment and imprecatory prayer are not mutually exclusive –*

They reward me evil for good, To the sorrow of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, My clothing was sackcloth; I humbled myself with fasting; And my prayer would return to my own heart. I paced about as though he were my friend or brother; I bowed down heavily, as one who mourns for his mother. But in my adversity they rejoiced And gathered together; Attackers gathered against me, And I did not know it; They tore at me and did not cease; With ungodly mockers at feasts They gnashed at me with their teeth. Lord, how long will You look on? Rescue me from their destructions, My precious life from the lions. Here the prayer is for perception, surely the LORD does see, and rescue!

4. *Here David promises public praise –*

I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people. Psalm 35:18

III. *Prayer for a final judgment, one rejoiced in by God’s people – Psalm 35:19-28*

1. *David would have certain mouths and actions finally stopped –*
¹⁹Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; Nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause. ²⁰For they do not speak peace, But they devise deceitful matters Against the quiet ones in the land. ²¹They also opened their mouth wide against me, And said, “Aha, aha! Our eyes have seen it.” ²²This You have seen, O LORD; Do not keep silence. O Lord, do not be far from me. ²³Stir up Yourself, and awake to my vindication, To my cause, my God and my Lord. ²⁴Vindicate me, O LORD my God, according to Your righteousness; And let them not rejoice over me. ²⁵Let them not say in their hearts, “Ah, so we would have it!” Let them not say, “We have swallowed him up.” ²⁶Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion Who rejoice at my hurt; Let them be clothed with shame and dishonor Who exalt themselves against me. Psalm 35:19–26

*Oh, how open and loud are the mouths that speak LIES! :21
They imagine wickedness in the righteous, they see with THEIR EYES - :21*

Verse 21.—“Our eye hath seen.” Eye for eyes, unless we would say that all the wicked are so conjoined, that they may seem to have but one eye, heart, head.—John Trapp.

Beware of joining mob vision, and mob action...

*Note not only against David but others, the quiet ones :20
Here, is a prayer that the LORD’s Voice would be heard - :22*

2. *Yet, he would have others speak freely, even shout –*
Let them shout for joy and be glad, Who favor my righteous cause; And let them say continually, “Let the LORD be magnified, Who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant.” Psalm 35:27

3. *With this David promises perpetual praise –*
And my tongue shall speak of Your righteousness and of Your praise all the day long. Psalm 35:28

Arnold Brevick