

**Victims** of evil come in all shapes, sizes and colors. The Bible refers to them as the **oppressed**, the **afflicted**, the **fatherless**, the poor, the deceived...

the innocent... the HELPLESS....

- Do you ever feel like you fit into one or more of these descriptions?

If not you, maybe you have watched someone close to you suffer deeply at the hands of the wicked...or just through what **seems** to be some random **injustice**...

God wants you to know today that He tells us in His Word how to respond to our situation.... (however **dark** it may be).... when we feel like we are helplessly oppressed by evil enemies.....

Especially, when those enemies are members of our own household..or family.... or workplace.....or neighborhood.... or school..... or (heaven forbid this)... your church.

## Cry for Justice!

Maybe you have been or are currently in a situation where you feel like God is **FAR removed** from the **injustice** that is happening to you....

It seems like no one else understands the deep agony you feel because of what others have done...

Perhaps for some of you, the **court system** has let you down..... or your parents have wronged you.... or maybe even your spiritual leaders....

How (at the gut level) are you **supposed to respond**?

- How can you **PRAY** when God seems to have **let** this happen to you?

Listen to and resonate with the cry of this Psalm: (make it your own prayer) and **CRY out for Justice!**

### Psalm 10:1-18

" Why, O LORD, do you stand **afar off**?  
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor;  
let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.

For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD.

In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him;  
all his thoughts are, "There is no God."

His ways prosper at all times; your judgments are on high, out of his sight; as for all his  
foes, he **puffs** at them.

He says in his heart, "I shall not be moved; throughout all generations I shall not meet  
adversity."

His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit and oppression; under his tongue are  
mischief and iniquity.

He sits in ambush in the villages; in hiding places he murders the innocent. His eyes  
stealthily watch for the helpless; he lurks in ambush like a lion in his thicket; he lurks  
that he may seize the poor; he seizes the poor when he draws him into his net. The  
helpless are crushed, sink down, and fall by his might. He says in his heart, "God has  
forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it."

**Arise, O LORD**; O God, **lift** up your hand; forget not the afflicted! Why does the wicked  
renounce God and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?

But you **do** see, for **you note** mischief and vexation, that you may take it into your  
hands; to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless.

**Break the arm of the wicked and evildoer**; call his wickedness to account till you find  
none.

The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land.

O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; **you will strengthen their heart**; you will  
incline your ear to **do justice** to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that **man who is of  
the earth may strike terror no more.**"

Do you ever feel like God is no where to be found?

The writer of this Psalm begins first by asking GOD...

- Where **ARE** YOU?

When God is making His presence known.... evil flees.... That is one reason we  
do not forsake gathering together to SEEK Him.... We want His presence among us  
so that our troubles flee!

the Psalmist asks God ...  
Why don't You Come **DO** something about these wrongs!

Then..... like a child to his father.... he quickly moves to LAMENTING over all the **INJUSTICE** he sees happening.... some of which (no doubt) has happened to him.

That is pretty **natural** isn't it? Very few of us have **ANY** trouble complaining about what is wrong.... especially if that wrong has been done to **us!**

But PART of the reason God lets us experience evil..... is so that our hearts will be **ALIGNED** with His in **hating** it....

Until you learn to have a bitter distaste in your mouth for evil..... your growth in Christ will be severely **stunted** . You will continue to try to straddle the fence between what the world is chasing... and following the Lord Jesus Christ.

Charles Spurgeon said:

**“That man loves not truth who does not **hate** a lie; and he loves not the right who has no anger against wrong.”**

When the overall **pattern** of someone's life consists of them carrying out what God calls EVIL... it is **evidence** that they **LOVE evil** and **HATE** God....

They are in fact who God calls.... THE WICKED.... they are **enemies of God**.

This Psalm teaches us that the first step in crying out for justice....

Cry Out for Justice!

### 1. **Identify the Wicked**

In football, if a receiver or a running back appears to have part of his foot across the boundary which marks out of bounds.....

That play will be reviewed (by video) from every angle to determine which side of the line he was in fact on.....

Tens of thousands of people will get angry if they think the officials got the call wrong....

People will yell and curse....they will throw things.....

Isn't it funny.....that in this game called **life**.....

Our culture increasingly wants to play as if **nothing** is out of bounds....

No line exists at all..... (unless you personally decide it does...)

But the Good and **stabilizing** News of the Bible is that the ONE Divine being who Created the heavens and the earth.... and the people who inhabit the world... (GOD)...

Has clearly drawn **a line on our playing field**... as what is RIGHT and what is WRONG.

Those who cross that line.... are called the WICKED..... sinners..... **enemies** of God.

Look at how clearly the writer of this prayer.... KNEW that the charges he was bringing against those he saw doing wrong..... clearly IDENTIFIED them as **enemies of God**.

They can be identified by the actions of their life:

- v. 1 Enemies of God are **TROUBLEMAKERS**.....they hate peace.....so they create **times of trouble**....families full of TROUBLE... schools and neighborhoods full of trouble.
- v. 2 They are **ARROGANT** (proud) – they **rip off** and plunder the poor...
- v. 3 They **CURSE God** continually – everything they say is laced with curse words...because they themselves are under a CURSE.... **GREED** is the chief motivation of their life...(bling bling is what they live for)
- v. 4 They are **FOOLS**..... they SAY openly there is NO GOD.....
- v. 5 They laugh (**scoff**) at the truth of God's **coming judgment**.... they do not believe that God's Wrath is stored up for them for every evil deed done in the body....
- v. 6 They are people who think they will **GET AWAY** with everything... They see themselves as being EXEMPT from God's law.
- v.7 They invent new ways of carrying out evil..... **scheming** ways to hurt others.
- v.8 They are STALKERS... MURDERERS...

Do you see the **connection** between these charges... and the 10 commandments....

The Holy Law of God..... has been established for His people... so that we KNOW and can IDENTIFY the difference between right and wrong?

So we can tell... at any given moment in this life.... who is **out of bounds** and who is not...by their deeds....

- So, guess WHO belongs in this group that the Psalmist is complaining about?

(wait)

-People of a certain **skin color**?

-People from certain countries or religions?

No, if we are honest..... we **ALL** do....

Bible says... **ALL** have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. No ONE is righteous ....no one does good....not even ONE....

Before the Bar of God's Righteous Judgment..... we are all HOODLUMS.... criminals.

James tells us that if you are guilty of breaking any one part of the law.....(like do not covet)... then you are guilty of **ALL** of it....

- God does not sweep ANYTHING under the rug.....

Every evil deed will be taken into **JUDGEMENT**.

God JUDGES everyone's sin. **No one** is EXEMPT.

Here is the ONLY difference between someone who is still an ENEMY of God or someone who has become His Friend....

A Child of God.... or His Foe...

Children of God **believe this**:

What every sinner deserves from God is **DEATH**. To be separated from His holy and good presence forever in HELL.

Where forever and ever.... the wicked will burn in a lake of fire that never goes out....

That is what **I** deserve..... and (Bible says) every single person on this planet deserves....

Because ALL have sinned.... all are OUT OF BOUNDS.... so the play is DEAD.

It is the JUDGMENT for our sin against a HOLY God.....

If every single person who ever lived .....went to HELL... because we have all sinned.....God would have not done anything wrong....

In fact, His JUSTICE would be clearly on display...

God is perfectly JUST and He can not change His standard of JUSTICE.....

**Good News!** God is also LOVE.....

In His LOVE for **you**.... (so that you would not perish in hell forever)....

He sent His only Son..... JESUS CHRIST.... to live a perfect life.... (which you have **failed** to live)... and to DIE your death on the cross.....

God caused His only Son.....who was the only human being who has ever lived that was COMPLETELY innocent and pure.....

He caused Him to actually **take on YOUR** sin....

The judgment for your sin.... the HELL you deserve was poured out on Jesus on the cross.

If you BELIEVE that.... then your very **FIRST cry for Justice**..... must not be a **complaint** about what has happened to you...

But a CRY OF JOY (and thanksgiving) over the fact that God has once and for all judged **your sin** in JESUS on the cross!

**Justice** has been SERVED for ALL your transgressions! Jesus died your death.

If you believe that..... if you are trusting in that good news.....THIS verse is the best description of your story anyone could write:

#### **Colossians 1:21-22**

"And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,"

**ALL** of us .... were among the wicked..... whether you are from the suburbs... or the country club...or the hood.

You were God's enemy...and you **proved it** by acting out of the evil of your own heart...

- **Get that?**

**Crucial**..... because if you are STILL God's enemy..... (as can be clearly seen through your deeds and the attitude of your heart towards God)....

then God is calling to you **REPENT**.... TURN from you sin.... and RUN to Jesus your Savior!

**Cling** to Him as the One who God judged in your place....and who paid the penalty for your sin in full on the cross...

Then, God raised Him from the dead..... so that God could CREDIT your account with His LIFE.....forever and ever.....

So that your track record is no longer the list of things you have done wrong.....

Now... God (the judge) has GIVEN you... as a free gift.....**the PERFECT** track record of Jesus' life!

So **a CRY for Justice**.....begins by identifying the WICKED in the world....

Starting with yourself...

By realizing.... that you are not some bubble of innocence in a cruel world....

But that.. no matter who you are..... you were and are **part of the problem** of evil which God **HAS** to judge.

- Hating the evil that others do **to you** is natural..... but hating the things which **you** THINK and DO against God..... is a product of **His grace** at work in your heart.

The mantra of the Christian life is really pretty simple.... Love God – Hate Evil.

You can't do one without the other.

The Psalms are full of this reality as we get to see the inner workings of David's prayer life....

Check out his hatred for EVIL.....and his desire for **JUSTICE** to be carried out upon the enemies of God....

#### **Psalm 139:19-22**

"Oh that you would slay the wicked, O God! O men of blood, depart from me! They speak against you with malicious intent; your enemies take your name in vain! Do I not

hate those who hate you, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against you? I hate them with complete hatred; I count them my enemies."

- Is David being **self-righteous**? I mean if we prayed something like that in public we would be called the most judgmental, mean spirited bigots in the country.....

But look at what David prays in the very next verse:

**Psalm 139:23-24**

"Search **me**, O God, and know **my** heart! **Try me** and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!"

**Slay** the wicked, O God! And start by helping me discover and put to death any trace of evil in my mind... and in my heart.....

It is OUT of this HATRED for all evil..... and LOVE for all good.....

That Christians not only SURVIVE in a dark world.....dominated by the wicked.....

But God uses the wicked around us to help us DESPISE the very same tendencies in our OWN hearts.

That is what Jesus meant:

**John 12:25**

"Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever **hates his life** in this world will keep it for eternal life."

So, a true Christian life.... is lived in LOVE with God and all that He calls good.... and (at the same time) **HATING** everything He calls evil....

Beginning with the sin of your own heart.....

**Hate it** enough to put it to death.....

To consider (by faith) that OLD you.... has DIED with Jesus on the cross...

You have been raised to walk in **NEWNESS** of life.

That is the gospel..... the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ....

It is now the **ONE** dividing line between the enemies of God.... and His children.....

In defending the Sheep of God against wolves in the early church..... (those who were trying to DISTORT and TWIST the simple truths of the gospel by ADDING works people had to do in order to be saved....)

Paul prayed in the same way the Psalmist is praying here.....

### **Galatians 1:9**

"As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be **accursed**."

In fact, the WORK which these false teachers were adding to the gospel was that all male children had to be circumcised..... Like David in his righteous indignation.... Paul says...

### **Galatians 5:12**

"I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!"

**Identify** the Wicked..... they are enemies of the gospel.

Cry Out for Justice!

## **2. Trust God to Deliver you from Evil.**

God delights to show Himself strong on behalf of weak people..... In fact, a key ingredient to your understanding how to come to God in prayer.... is to regard yourself as **helpless** without Him....

**Men** don't tend to think that way.

I have to confess to you... that whenever I can not fix something at the house and have to call in a repairman.... I usually try to find some way to contribute.... some screw or bolt he doesn't have on hand that I just happen to have...

Some tool he needs.....

God wants us to come to him in humility.... admitting...we have **no power** whatsoever against the evils which assail us... Our weapons won't cut it...

Part of the curse of Adam's sin is that this whole world has been given over into the hands of the Evil One.... Satan himself.

So whenever sinners cooperate with Satan in committing evil deeds..... his ugly face always shines through...so...

**We NEED God!** We need a DELIVERER.....

So when you are hating evil..... even those who perpetrate it.... you are actually joining God in hating Satan and all his demons....

You are praying against those who are his **agents of darkness**... who have bought his lies and are carrying out his destruction upon the world...

### **Ephesians 6:12**

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places."

The last half of Psalm 10 is an **imprecation**... (curse)...or a plea to God for Him to Rise Up and **defeat** His enemies.... to bring them to judgment....

and by so doing... to deliver the helpless from the hands of the wicked....

Through PRAYER.... David lists out the offenses before the Judge.... and asks God to make it right!

### **Psalm 10:12-14**

"**Arise**, O LORD; O God, **lift up your hand**; forget not the afflicted. Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?"

But you **do** see, for **you note mischief and vexation**, that you may **take it into your hands**; to you the helpless commits himself; you **have been the helper of the fatherless**.

The most **beautiful** result of prayer... is that you who recognize your helplessness against wickedness on the earth.... come out of prayer.... knowing you are SAFE in the hands of Almighty God..... who listens to your cries!

And who will NOT leave the guilty unpunished.

Like David defended His flock against the Lion and the Bear....

God will raise His strong arm to **break the power** of the wicked on behalf of His sheep.

- Ask God to do just that!

You can TRUST Him to deliver you... from the ones too strong for you... That brings God much glory!

And if it seems like God is delaying in answering.... recognize that God is **taking notes**.... detailed notes against the wicked. And... Their court date is coming.

If you are suffering or have suffered because of the evil deeds of others.... He wants you to find **comfort** in that reality...

David Powlison - The wrath of God is often presented not as something to fear, but as something on which to set your hopes, as the **consolation**, **refuge**, and deliverance of God's suffering people: "Beloved, never avenge yourself, but leave it to the wrath of God" ([Romans 12:19](#)).

Leaving it to the wrath of God... is not merely a passive experience.... The Psalmist teaches us how to pray for God to avenge His enemies...

God wants your pain **translated** into hope and faith... as you hate evil... and pray that the wicked will be overthrown on the earth.

#### **Psalm 10:15**

**"Break** the arm of the wicked and evildoer; call his wickedness to account till you find none."

The arm in ancient times... the arm...wielded the sword. God is said to have broken the arm of Pharaoh, in delivering Israel from slavery....so he could not raise the sword against God's people again....

**God has once and for all broken the arm of Satan**.... (your captor)...by disarming his ability to DECIEVE the people of God forever....through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ...

But even with a broken arm (so to speak) Satan still prowls about seeking someone to devour.... He still **embodies** wicked men and women to do evil....

It is honors your Savior if you to **ASK** God to **break** that power..... to come and JUDGE every evil deed....

As you do..... God strengthens your FAITH that He will act.....He empowers you to believe that He alone is Almighty God.... the King of Israel!

#### **Psalm 10:16-18**

"The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land. O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will **strengthen their heart**; you will incline your ear to **do justice** to the fatherless and the oppressed, **so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.**"

**Cry OUT for Justice! God will deliver you from ALL evil... both now... and forever.**