

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

I GIVE MYSELF UNTO PRAYER

PSALMS 109

Text: Psalms 109:4

Psalm 109:4

⁴ For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.

Introduction:

Someone once stated, “No greater injury can be inflicted upon men than to wound their reputation.”

This is precisely what David was experiencing when he wrote Psalm 109.

He was undergoing a character assassination at the hands of ruthless men.

One ruthless man in particular was the ringleader and caused David the greatest trouble. This unknown opponent may have been King Saul, who sought to do him much harm. Or one of Saul's officers may have been the point man in this relentless verbal assault against David.

Either way, David was reeling under a painful attack on his character and suffering the devastation of his reputation.

His heart was deeply wounded, and he had no way to set the record straight. David responded by taking this matter to the Lord in prayer.

The best way to get rid of an enemy is to leave him or her with the Lord.

As we find ourselves in situations similar to David's plight, we should also pray exactly as he did.

Ultimately, only God can make it right.

Notice:

1. DAVID'S LAMENTATION (VS. 1-5)

Psalm 109:1-5

¹ Hold not thy peace, O God of my praise; ² For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying tongue. ³ They compassed me about also with words of hatred; and fought against me without a cause. ⁴ For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer. ⁵ And they have rewarded me evil for good, and hatred for my love.

David begins by addressing God as worthy of praise, even in this painful hour.

He plead, petitioning God to answer him in his terrible ordeal.

Wicked and deceitful men had risen up to falsely accuse him.

They were speaking wicked and evil things about him.

These false accusations against him were spoken by lying tongues, assassinating his character, questioning his motives, and slandering his life.

David had extended his foes friendship while they in turn had shown him evil and hatred.

David committed this matter to God in prayer.

While David's enemies were spewing false words against him, he was speaking to God.

Note not only David's Lamentation but also:

2. DAVID'S DENUNCIATION (VS. 6-20)

David's enemies now change for plural "they" to singular.

Psalm 109:6

*⁶ Set thou a wicked man over **him**: and let Satan stand at **his** right hand.*

He continues referring to this enemy in a singular way through verse 20.

This singular reference points to the ringleader of this opposition against David.

He pleaded with God for this one man, his wicked accuser, to find himself on the receiving end of similar slander.

(Note vss. 7-8)

Psalm 109:7-8

⁷ When he shall be judged, let him be condemned: and let his prayer become sin. ⁸ Let his days be few; and let another take his office.

David desired that the ringleader of this slanderous attack against him be found guilty. Let the truth about his accuser's own evil character be made known.

(Note vss. 9-11)

Psalm 109:9-11

⁹ Let his children be fatherless, and his wife a widow.

¹⁰ Let his children be continually vagabonds, and beg: let them seek their bread also out of their desolate places. ¹¹ Let the extortioner catch all that he hath; and let the strangers spoil his labour.

The phrase let his children be fatherless expresses this thought: "Cut short his days; cause him to die soon."

David did not request that his children be killed but only their father.

When this accuser died, his children would be left as wandering beggars, leaving them without a father to provide for them.

David asked that a creditor seize all his possessions, the result of this adversary dying soon.

May he die now, unexpectedly, and strangers plunder all his property.

It is important to note that David didn't attempt to make this happen, but ask God to do it.

Note not only David's Lamentation and Denunciation but also:

3. DAVID'S DESPERATION (VS. 21-25)

Psalm 109:21-25

²¹ But do thou for me, O GOD the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy mercy is good, deliver thou me. ²² For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. ²³ I am gone like the shadow when it declineth: I am tossed up and down as the locust. ²⁴ My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness. ²⁵ I became also a reproach unto them: when they looked upon me they shook their heads.

In this desperate strait, David turned to the Lord for deliverance from his false accuser.

Deal well with me, he appealed to God, asking for divine protection and escape from the relentless attacks of this evil man.

David told God that he was poor and needy with a wounded, broken heart. This ordeal was deeply hurtful, caused by his enemies. His life's strength was flowing out of him

He was like a dreaded locust, the enemy of the farmer. Farmers would shake the locusts off their trees and shrubs to destroy them. This was how David felt, as one who had been shaken off and had fallen to the ground, leaving him cast down and weakened.

David's knees were weary from fasting, which was associated with prayer. He had been pleading with God for divine strength and help, so much so that he was physically weak and lean from all the prayer and fasting. He was dishonored by their many lies against him

This leads us fourthly to:

4. DAVID'S SUPPLICATION (VS. 26-29)

Psalm 109:26-29

²⁶ Help me, O LORD my God: O save me according to thy mercy: ²⁷ That they may know that this is thy hand; that thou, LORD, hast done it. ²⁸ Let them curse, but bless thou: when they arise, let them be ashamed; but let thy servant rejoice. ²⁹ Let mine adversaries be clothed with shame, and let them cover themselves with their own confusion, as with a mantle.

David concluded with a passionate plea for God's hand to deliver him from the ruthless attacks.

Only God could defend him, so he called out to God for protection and deliverance from his enemies.

He appealed to God to intervene in such a powerful way that even his enemies must acknowledge that it was God who had acted in rescuing him.

We have considered David's Lamentation, Denunciation, Desperation, Supplication, note lastly:

5. DAVID'S ADORATION (VS. 30-31)

Psalm 109:30-31

³⁰ I will greatly praise the LORD with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude. ³¹ For he shall stand at the right hand of the poor, to save him from those that condemn his soul.

David closes this as he began, speaking about the greatness of God with his mouth.

Earlier, David asked that an accuser might stand at the right hand of the one doing evil to accuse him of wrong (v. 6). Here, the accuser is replaced by God, who stands at the right hand of his own beloved to defend and save them.

Close:

When believers find themselves attacked by those who impugn their character and slander their reputation, they should respond as David did. When persecution comes, God's people should resort to these actions:

- Prayer

Commit the injustice to God. Ask God to deal with this vicious person. Seek the Lord to act in vindication. Do not personally seek to make the wrong right.

- Patience

Give God time to act. Remember, God is longsuffering with sinners. So should every believer be when wronged. While you wait, turn the other cheek.

- Praise

David began and concluded this psalm with praise for God. That should be the pattern for all who trust him.

Do not let someone else throw cold water on your love for God.

Through it all, give glory to God, who is at your right hand to defend you.

The battle belongs to the Lord.