

Dealing with the Unjust

Psalm 58: 1-11

Although our text today is another psalm of David, this one is quite difficult to consider. While it deals with eternal truth, and difficulties many must endure, it reveals situations most would rather avoid. This too is a *Michtam*, a psalm David wanted inscribed in stone to ensure it was preserved for future generations.

The timing in which David wrote this particular psalm is unknown. Some think he wrote it regarding the treatment he received while on the run from King Saul. Others believe he may have written it shortly after he ascended to Israel's throne, regarding the wicked state of affairs within the nation. There are others who think he may have penned these words during Absalom's rebellion.

Regardless of the timing or situation, the truth it reveals transcends time. While it may be difficult to read and consider, we would have to admit that we are dealing with a similar situation in America. There is much corruption and abuse within the court system, and even among those in places of power and authority. While we must deal with those committed to corruption and deceit, we are never alone. The Lord, the Righteous Judge, remains seated on His throne, and will one day bring righteousness to bear on those who deny and reject Him.

As we examine the [declarations](#) of David within the text, I want to consider: [Dealing with the Unjust](#).

I. The Corruption of the Wicked (1-5) – David began this psalm dealing with the utter corruption he discovered among those in authority, particularly the judges in Israel. Consider:

A. The Inquiry (1) – [Do ye indeed speak righteousness, O congregation? do ye judge uprightly, O ye sons of men?](#) David asked a rhetorical question, posed to cause the judges and those who knew them to consider their actions. As we will discover, these clearly were not upright in their dealings. They may have spoken words that appealed to men, but their actions did not match their perceived intentions. They spoke of righteousness and justice, and yet failed to judge uprightly.

- We see a great parallel in our day as well. Judges, politicians, and those in places of prominence are often described as “silver tongued,” revealing their ability to speak what people desire to hear, and yet have no intention of doing the very things they propose. Righteousness has been replaced with iniquity, and justice has been replaced with injustice. The courts and halls of congress are driven by the desires of the elite and powerful, rather than justice and truth.

B. The Reality (2) – *Yea, in heart ye work wickedness; ye weigh the violence of your hands in the earth.* David revealed the wicked were not known for keeping their word. They sought to portray integrity and character, and yet were motivated by influential groups, resulting in wickedness and violence. Their true character was revealed by their actions, bringing hardship and pain to many.

▪ We should not be surprised, and yet I continue to be amazed at the decisions and behavior of those entrusted with leadership and justice. Right is now considered wrong, and wrong is being embraced as right. The sinful and depraved are dictating policy, and the righteous continue to suffer. Our culture is driven by those who seek to remove all influence of the Gospel.

C. The Iniquity (3-5) – David goes on to describe the iniquity of the judges and those who were expected to provide sound, godly leadership. Notice:

➤ **Their Position (3)** – *The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.* These have no interest in truth or righteousness. They have failed to follow God from their birth, and as they age, they continue to move further away from the truth. These are known for their lies and deceit, rather than truth and honor.

➤ **Their Poison (4)** – *Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear.* Their words are like poison, as dangerous and deadly as that of an adder. Although some may have tried to reason with them, seeking to instruct them with truth, these refused to hear any godly counsel. Their hearts were set on wickedness, and they refused to listen to anything others sought to share. It was impossible to reason with these wicked men.

➤ **Their Rebellion (5)** – *Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely.* Like a serpent that refused to be charmed, these refused to listen to the voice of reason. They were determined to pursue their desires at any cost, regardless of any evidence to the contrary. (Unfortunately, many in leadership follow this same path. They are determined to promote their agenda, even if it opposes common sense and long held reason. They are committed to their goals, and refuse to submit to the righteousness of God.)

II. The Cry against the Wicked (6-9) – Here David makes his case unto the Lord against the wicked and their agenda. Notice:

A. Their Description (6-8) – David used many illustrations to describe the attitude and actions of the wicked. To him they appeared as young lions, seeking to devour anyone who stood in opposition to their agenda. They were as waters of a stream, continually flowing toward their desired goals. He also saw them as a bow in the hands of an archer, ready to release the arrow into an unsuspecting victim.

- Each of these descriptions portray those who seek to bring harm to others, while remaining determined to achieve their agenda. I am often amazed at the ruthless and inconsiderate actions of those entrusted with maintaining truth and justice. There is a movement in our day to eradicate all that is just and right from our culture. We have lost our moral compass, and the lengths to which those who seek to silence any opposition will go is without limits. We face those who seek to devour all who stand in their way, determined to see their agenda prosper.

B. The Desire (6-9) – As David prayed unto the Lord regarding the wicked, he prayed specifically about the matter. He requested that God break the teeth of the young lions, rendering them harmless against him. He asked the Lord to stop the flow of their unrighteous agenda, causing their efforts to cease. He prayed the arrows would be cut in pieces, rendering them useless to the archer in any attempt to bring harm.

- In a more graphic request, viewing his enemies as slugs, David prayed the Lord would dry them up, causing them to melt, and pass away. He desired them to be as one who had died at birth, having no chance to bring harm to anyone or engage in wickedness. While these requests seem harsh, we cannot overlook David's passion for God's holiness. He had come to the place that he was willing to pray for God to literally remove anything or anyone who opposed God and His plans. I have never prayed such a prayer, but we need the heart of David when it comes to desiring God to be honored and His plans fulfilled. While I do not desire their death, I do pray that the Lord would diminish their power and remove their influence.

- Finally, David desired the plans of the wicked to come to naught, just as a campfire in the midst of a whirlwind, [V.9](#). He used the illustration of a traveler, after dealing with a grueling journey, stopping to prepare a meal. As the fire is made, and the evening meal is prepared to cook, just before the pot is to be set on the fire, a whirlwind scatters the fire, destroying the hope for a much-needed meal. David prayed for God to consume the wicked, along with their desires as a whirlwind would a small campfire.

III. The Conquest over the Wicked (10-11) – As David closed this Micham psalm, he does so with praise for God's faithfulness and sovereignty in dealing with the wicked. Consider:

A. The Rejoicing (10) – *The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked.* David knew the wicked would not prevail forever. In His time, and in His way, God would eventually deal with the wicked, bringing judgment upon their evil deeds. David declared the righteous would rejoice when God judged the wicked, bringing their reign of injustice to an end.

- It may appear that evil will continue to triumph, as our world grows darker each day. However, there is coming a day when the Righteous Judge will return in power and great glory. He will judge the nations of the earth, and all who chose to reject Him. The enemy will be bound and cast into the lake of fire for all eternity. Wickedness may prevail for a season, but the Lord is coming to establish righteousness. The sin and evil of our world will not escape coming judgment.

B. The Reward (11) – *So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth.* David realized that men would eventually discover what he had known all along – righteousness will prevail over sin and evil. As they came in judgment, the righteous would receive their reward. God will judge sin, but He also will reward the faithfulness of those who followed Him, pursuing righteousness.

- As we survey the events of our day, it appears that evil has gained the upper hand. Our world continues a rapid state of decline, growing more wicked each day. However, God is not unaware of the events taking place. He knows those who promote evil and sin, and He also knows those who seek to live a life that honors Him. Just as surely as the wicked will face judgment, the saved by grace will receive an eternal reward. Wickedness will be judged, and the righteous will inherit the glories of heaven for all eternity. I may be in a minority in relation to those in our current day, but our Lord will prevail. He is coming again, and all will stand before Him to give account. I am thankful my sin has been atoned through His shed blood.

Conclusion: This has not been the easiest passage to consider, but it reveals relevant truth for our day. We must stand for truth in the face of sin and iniquity. This is often difficult, but it is easier with an eternal perspective. We are secure in the hand of our Lord. The saved now possess eternal life, having our sin judged at Calvary in the body of Jesus Christ our Lord. The wicked may prevail today, but the Judge will soon come. Where do you stand with the Lord? Do you know Him as Lord and Savior? Are you struggling against those who oppose your faith? There is strength and help in Christ, if we will only seek Him!