

Psalm 94

Read Psalm 94:1-11 : We have to be careful what we ask for. The psalmist is calling on God to *drop the hammer* on crime and crush the offensive people. We were all formerly self-willed wrongdoers; who did what we had to in order to get what we wanted. If God judged the world too early; we would have been destroyed with the rest of the *out-of-bounds* people.

The unrighteous always seek more and more freedoms. They want all restrictions removed from promiscuity, drugs, TV content, law enforcement, and a removal of all Christian moral footings. They do not concern themselves with the fact that their neighbor's same selfish desires would infringe on their own hopes and dreams. They want to commit adultery; but they do not want their loved ones to commit adultery against them. They want to take; but they do not want to have others take theirs. The same rules have to apply to all. You want the police on hand to protect your interests...but to let you do what you want to do. If you are hiding something; you probably have a disdain for the involvement of judges and policemen.

I remember a funny story from my childhood. I was driving through the Montanna countryside with one of my uncles during a summer family vacation. I was in early elementary school. My uncle had bought a soda for me at the local bar. As I finished it; he told me to just throw it out the pickup window. I paused, because that would be littering. He more aggressively said again to throw it out of the window. I paused again...and then I threw it out. He slammed on the brakes; and said 'Not here!' That's our property!

There are some evil people ruining their own cities and our nation. They care not for the next generation. The righteous want to stop the trash on TV, and the lying media, and the low-quality political leaders, and crime. The righteous are finding it harder to see how this world could be salvaged. We cannot accommodate every sensitive person at the cost of the common good. In fact, we have placed the desires of the special interests above the common good. The restoration of justice is a major theme in the Old Testament. If you are seeking good; you have much to look forward to (even with evil rulers).

God is teaching me slowly how to live above my circumstances. I sigh when I see a drug addict; but I am still well cared for by GOD.

Why is it so important for us to see that God will deal with the unfair and out-of-line people? Part of righteousness is to hate evil. To love others is to want for them what you want for yourself.

A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame. Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner. (Proverbs 13:5-6)

We can feel that we are doing our part to be solid citizens for no reason. We can feel that our efforts to comply with civility and love are wasted. Some conclude that they shouldn't pay taxes to an evil government. Paul told us to pay them all. His government was worse than ours. The psalmist feels that things are being allowed to go out of control. He feels that *the bad guys* are hurting *the good guys* with impunity. *The game of life seems to have no referee.*

There is something appealing about *the vigilante*. The reality of that falls short of what God desires. We are not to go kill others in malice. That hatred is unbalanced and subjective. That is why law enforcement has removed the angry party out of the equation. We have seen how justice is blind to feelings; and weighs things impartially. Vengeance is unhealthy for us. Carrying hatred and grudges is the number one contributor to mental illness. We were not designed to carry too much stress or attack each other.

God replies here by letting us know that he sees it all. He adds that he will make his corrections to all nations and to all people. In fact; God has unseen boundaries and timing mechanisms that cannot be bypassed. God's actions and our desires seldom line up at the same time. Our sense of timing is based on our place in the picture. If we are being offended; then we want rapid justice. If we are somehow irritating others, we expect some mercy and latitude.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:17)

But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:8-9)

In other words; if God was quicker on the trigger, we would have been already destroyed. All of our anger and frustration against the wicked are the same feelings that others have had towards us. When I see a young man driving like a fool I want to see him brought into conformity with safe driving; and yet I acted like that young man when I was young. To stop evil now is equivalent to stopping the process of saving the lost. Once we get our act together, we want to change the rules.

Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things. 3 And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? (Romans 2:1-4)

Is there also a temporary benefit in allowing the saints to get pushed around and deal with unfairness? Are office politics, terrorism, theft, hostile invasions and anti-christian politics ultimately a curse or blessing? According to the bible, all of this *unwelcomed stuff* somehow helps us in some way.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

No matter what happens; it is somehow is good for us.

There also seems to be a biblical promise that the *wheels would keep falling off our little red wagon.*

Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. " (John 16:32-33)

I really feel that God has slowly been teaching me something in between the lines here. Previously, I just saw the messed up world as a spoiled planet because of sin. I now see that I really have to be put into an imperfect place, where I am occasionally unappreciated and stepped on. That is how love and patience and honor are developed. My life will not

turn out well without ongoing antagonisms. Any good leader has their share of things they have overcome. These verses combined make this a true statement.

“Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:17-19)

We also know that when we *take it on the chin* for God's team, for just being holy, that we are blessed.

Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (Matthew 5:11-12)

In fact, the effect of unfair treatment for the gospel becomes like an injection of power and hope.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, “These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe.” Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. (Acts 16:20-25)

God has been showing me that a big part of my faith development is to **learn how to live above my circumstances.** *There is no faith or hope required on Easy Street.* That may be why I have been on the road; on these construction projects. I am not to let my let downs dictate my joy and peace. I may be able to keep happy if I hear about something incidental like a non-critical material shipment delay. I may get more bent out of shape if it looks like a subcontractor is unlikely to pull things together to solve an ongoing problem.

Daniel was a faithful young man; who got paired up with a bunch of compromised and envious colleagues. He had to look after the affairs of the man (King Nebuchadnezzar)

who was responsible for killing hundreds of thousands of his people. *That would be worse than me being Joe Biden's Press Secretary.* Daniel only showed love and respect for the position of his king. In all circumstances we are supposed to shine. Maybe I can shine during a level 3 test; but I may not do too well during a level 6 test. I need more faith; and a daily, massive inflowing of the Holy Spirit to make that happen.

Read Psalm 94:12-15: Part of our testing includes being faithful in an unfaithful world. All of the ongoing *godless chatter and fallen society activities* does not mean that we cannot still be blessed amidst it all. We are so blessed to have a different world view than the rest of the world. Hebrews 11 is called *The Hall of Faith*. These notable saints all were inconvenienced in their pursuit of God.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them. (Hebrews 11:13-16)

All of the antichristian activity and discussion in this world are held up alongside the believer. The surrounding world shows how different we are. It appears that we will suffer a loss time and time again. Somehow we end up ok; but those who worked against us eventually suffer the loss.

I have to really thank God for teaching me his word over the years. As a boy, I believed it; but I was not pursuing it. There was no effort to search it out. In High School I joined a bible study group that took the word more seriously. The word began to impact my life more, as I drilled down deeper. There was a phase of spiritual development where I forced myself to read the word; though I had marginal understanding and preferred to be doing other things. It is not just a broken world that makes life tough. We are all broken people; who keep on breaking down along the way.

Read Psalm 94:16-19: It takes a while to see that God is rescuing us and arranging our schedule daily. We can spend our whole life worrying about what is ahead. It is like a gauntlet of tests and trainings for our development. We need to become more used to committing things to prayer; instead of thinking that we are actually getting it all done on

our own. I have seen how I have been divinely protected and cared for. I have also seen how I have been divinely restricted and held back from accomplishing my goals.

The best thing that we can do is commit an issue to prayer; and begin to make plans.

Read Psalm 94: 20-23: The evil government leaders are opposed to anything godly. They are springing their own trap; and inviting curses upon themselves. The faster people run away from God, the closer they come to falling into their own trap. God continuously is proving that our false hopes cannot deliver us. We run from thing to thing; and the curses follow.

I will kindle a fire in the temples of the gods of Egypt, and Nebuchadnezzar will burn those temples and take their gods as captives. (Jeremiah 43:12)