

Prayers for Justice

Praying the Psalms – Part 7

Life Church St. Louis – July 19, 2020

Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker

Message Videos – www.lcstl.org/messages

Deuteronomy 32:4 (ESV) “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

Isaiah 33:22 (ESV) For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Luke 18:7-8a (ESV) And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily.

1. Appeal for defense

Psalm 35:1 (ESV) Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me!

Psalm 35:4-5 (ESV) Let them be put to shame and dishonor who seek after my life! Let them be turned back and disappointed who devise evil against me! Let them be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away!

Psalm 35:7-8 (ESV) For without cause they hid their net for me; without cause they dug a pit for my life. Let destruction come upon him when he does not know it! And let the net that he hid ensnare him; let him fall into it—to his destruction!

Psalm 35:9-10 (ESV) Then my soul will rejoice in the LORD, exulting in his salvation. All my bones shall say, “O LORD, who is like you, delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, the poor and needy from him who robs him?”

2. Cry for _____

Psalm 109:1 (ESV) Be not silent, O God of my praise!

Psalm 109:2-3 (ESV) For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues. They encircle me with words of hate, and attack me without cause.

Psalm 109:6-7 (ESV) Appoint a wicked man against him; let an accuser stand at his right hand. When he is tried, let him come forth guilty; let his prayer be counted as sin!

Psalm 109:26-27 (ESV) Help me, O LORD my God! Save me according to your steadfast love! Let them know that this is your hand; you, O LORD, have done it!

3. Pray for _____

Psalm 140:1-2 (ESV) Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually.

Psalm 140:6-7 (ESV) I say to the LORD, You are my God; give ear to the voice of my pleas for mercy, O LORD! O LORD, my Lord, the strength of my salvation, you have covered my head in the day of battle.

Psalm 140:9-10 (ESV) As for the head of those who surround me, let the mischief of their lips overwhelm them! Let burning coals fall upon them! Let them be cast into fire, into miry pits, no more to rise!

Psalm 140:12-13 (ESV) I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and will execute justice for the needy. Surely the righteous shall give thanks to your name; the upright shall dwell in your presence.

Action Plan for This Week

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Read Psalms 35,109,140).
 Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat Sun

Invite a friend to attend the service next week.

How will I obey God’s Word this week? _____

Prayers for Justice Study Guide

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Intro. How would you define justice?

Intro. How does God set the standard of justice for us (Deuteronomy 32:4)?

Intro. In what ways should the truth that the Lord is judge inform our view of justice (Isaiah 33:22)?

Intro. What does God instruct us to do when we are threatened by injustice (Luke 18:7-8a)?

1A. What picture comes to mind when reading Psalm 35:1-3?

1B. What are the acts of vengeance that David wants God to pour out on his enemies (Psalm 35:4-6)?

1C. Why did David feel justified in asking for God to come to his defense (Psalm 35:7-8)?

1D. How do we know that David believed that God is just (Psalm 35:9-10)?

1E. Why is it important to acknowledge that there is evil and injustice in the world and that God is a just God?

2A. What troubling situation did David find himself in in Psalm 109:1-3)?

2B. Why do we have prayers of imprecation (curses on David's enemies) in these psalms (Psalm 109:6-7)?

2C. Why did David pray that his enemies would know that God's judgement had come upon them (Psalm 109:26-27)?

2D. In what ways are our enemies God's enemies and vice versa?

3A. What were David's enemies in Psalm 140:1-5 doing or planning on doing to him?

3B. What confidence did David have in the Lord (Psalm 140:6-7)?

3C. In what ways would David's prayer against his enemies be answered by the Lord (Psalm 140:9-10)?

3D. How can we pray these psalms, expressing both God's love and justice (Psalm 140:12-13)?