**Psalm 58**

**The Justice of God**

Psalm 58 can be difficult and confusing. It’s one of those Psalms that can diminish your view of the Book of Psalms. Yet consider this: Jesus quoted the Psalms more than any other book. Jesus also said:

***Everything must be fulfilled that was written of me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.***

***(Luke 24:44)*** Jesus didn’t back down from any of the Psalms and neither should we, so let’s dive in.

Psalm 58 describes a problem. **Injustice.**

Bad people in positions of authority are using the power of their position to do bad things to people.

By identifying the problem as the heart, we are told some very important things. This is not just a matter of training or background or disadvantage or income or race. The problem of evil transcends all categories of societal distinction. The problem of evil begins in the hearts of people. Ultimately, the problem of evil must be addressed by addressing the heart.

This problem of the heart as demonstrated with injustice was pervasive in Old Testament Israel. The prophets railed against injustice. Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Micah and others. The Bible gives good attention to those who are suffering and especially those who suffer at the hands of people who have positions of authority. In particular, the people of God were often guilty of injustice toward the helpless and vulnerable.

In this Psalm, David does not seek vengeance but justice. This is not a new idea but is a common thread that runs throughout Scripture. Here’s a sample….

Genesis 1 & 2 – Adam & Eve are right with God and right with each other.

Matthew 22: 37-39 – Jesus commanded love God and love people.

Micah 6:8 – God desires kindness and justice.

God is very concerned with how people treat each other.

In Psalm 58 and his request for vengeance, David simply wants God to be honored through the proper treatment of people.

*The righteous will be glad when they are avenged, when they bathe their feet in the blood of the wicked.*

*Then men will say, "Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth."*

Psalm 58:10-11

This is a tough metaphor but in general, it is connecting the destruction of the wicked with the gladness or rejoicing of the righteous. We should want evil to be removed from our world. What we have in Psalm 58 is not new material.

*The Lord watches over the way of the righteous but the way of the wicked will perish.* Psalm 1:6

Throughout the book of Psalms, there is a longing and a waiting for the future Kingdom of the Messiah. Please God, rule with your justice here.

Jesus taught us to pray, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. When you pray that, you are – at least in part, praying for the justice of God.