

Friday, March 1, 2024 - Day 15 of Lent

Open in Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you know that in this world we are under great pressure, so that at times, we fall, we get hurt, we are wounded, we retreat. Remind us that in our weakness, Your strength is enough. You can pick us up and place us on the path You desire for us to walk. You can heal any wound or hurt. And when we retreat, we can retreat to the shadow of the cross, and abide in You. This week, help me find refuge in You, O Lord. Amen.

Read Psalm 109:21-31 (NIV)

But you, Sovereign LORD, help me for your name's sake; out of the goodness of your love, deliver me. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. I fade away like an evening shadow; I am shaken off like a locust. My knees give way from fasting; my body is thin and gaunt. I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads. Help me, LORD my God; save me according to your unfailing love. Let them know that it is your hand, that you, LORD, have done it. While they curse, may you bless; may those who attack me be put to shame, but may your servant rejoice. May my accusers be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak. With my mouth I will greatly extol the LORD; in the great throng of worshipers I will praise him. For he stands at the right hand of the needy, to save their lives from those who would condemn them.

Answer the following questions:

1. When you see injustice in the world, or you experience injustice in your life, how do you typically want to respond?

For most of the world, when injustice occurs, whether the injustice of war as we see in Ukraine, or genocide, or human trafficking, or someone losing their life unjustly, we want to repay evil for evil. We want to see justice reign down and reign down NOW!

2. Have you ever felt that way? Have you ever seen such injustice that you wanted to repay evil for evil?
3. But, the Psalmist decides to handle it differently. He takes it to God and appeals to God to handle the injustice on the Psalmist's behalf. What would it take for

you to allow a Just and Holy God to handle situations in your life of injustice, rather than seeking retribution on your own?

4. If God were simply a God of forgiveness but not justice, there would be nowhere for us to run when we have been sinned against. But God's holiness will not tolerate injustice. Isn't that great news? Is it? Aren't we unjust? If so, doesn't that mean that we will be judged with the same judgment as our oppressors?
5. How then is the Psalmist able to appeal to God for justice? Because Christ has already spoken on our behalf! As we journey to the cross, we are reminded that while crying out on the cross, in the midst of the pain and scorn, Christ took the place of sinful humanity. Now, as you run to God with your cries of injustice, God sees us as sinless in Christ and we can be confident in our salvation. Take a few minutes and reflect on that deep truth.

God is good, and His love endures forever. His mercies are new every morning! Therefore, let us throw off the sin that so easily entangles and run the race marked out for us, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Let us run to the refuge of the King, and allow Him to care for us, equipping us to continue the race.

Close in Prayer

Rather than me giving you a prayer to close with this week, take a few moments and write a prayer today which relates to God's refuge. Put it on a post-it note and leave it on your bathroom mirror, that will give you 6 different prayers by the end of the week to pray as you get ready in the morning, or wind down in the evening.