

PRAYING THE PSALMS
LAUGHING AT SIN

Monday, January 22

Reading: Psalm 5

Psalm 5:1 *Listen to my words, LORD, consider my lament. 2 Hear my cry for help, my King and my God, for to You I pray. 3 In the morning, LORD, You hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before You and wait expectantly. 4 For You are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with You, evil people are not welcome.*

In this psalm David is crying out to God because of his enemies. It is an “unvarnished” prayer as we can feel David’s anger at their sin and lies by the strong words he uses to describe them. It is a plea for God to bring judgment on them for “they have rebelled against You” (5:10)

In contrast, David is confident that God will hear and answer his prayers. He bases this confidence not in anything he has done, but in the character of God. God’s holiness and love are not in conflict. He hates sin because of His love. He does not want people to suffer the destruction sin brings to their lives and destinies. He brings judgment to show us the consequences of rejecting Him. But David makes sure to also tell us of the joy of those who take refuge in God (5:11-12).

The line that strikes me is found in verse 4: “For you are not a God who is pleased with wickedness; with You, evil people are not welcome.” If we were honest, the sad truth is that we welcome evil people into our homes every day. Many of the popular TV shows and movies laugh at sin...and we laugh right along with them. The popular culture of our day has turned sin into a joke and thus an accepted way of life. I know this is true because I have been guilty of this as well. Sin will desensitize you if it entertains you. And unfortunately too many of us bring this numbing entertainment into our lives.

But God does not think sin is funny. He is not amused when people disobey and reject His standards. Those who blatantly live a sinful lifestyle can never be welcome in His presence. Their destiny is one of judgment and wrath unless they repent and turn to Christ for salvation. He took our judgment and wrath on the cross so that we might experience the mercy and love of God through salvation.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Why do we get sucked into these shows that glorify sin (or at least present it as no big deal)? I’m not saying we all go and live as hermits in the desert. But I do believe we need to get better at controlling what goes into our minds and hearts.

David gives us a great answer to living for God in a wicked world. He prays for God to “spread Your protection” over the righteous (5:11). We need to make this an integral part of our prayer life. We need to look at the world through God’s eyes. We need to filter what we allow to “entertain” us through the sieve of God’s Word. We need God to surround us as with a shield. Pray for a sensitivity to sin and God’s protection on your mind and heart.