

The Persecuted Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 35

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I. Many are the afflictions of the righteous... (cf. Jn 15:18-25)

¹⁸ *‘If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. ²¹ But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates Me hates My Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. ²⁵ But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, ‘They hated Me without a cause.’ (John 15:18–25)*

II. The Persecuted Man

- A. *Petition*: Plead my cause! (1-10)
 - 1. Introductory Petition (1-6)
 - 2. Explanation & Renewed Petition (7-8)
 - 3. First Promise of Praise (9-10)

- B. *Lament*: They reward me evil for good. (11-18)
 - 1. Extended Lament (11-16)
 - 2. Renewed Petition (17)
 - 3. Second Promise of Praise (18)

- C. *Petition*: Awake to my vindication (19-28)
 - 1. Petition & Explanation (19-21)
 - 2. Cry for vindication (22-27)
 - 3. Final Promise of Praise (28)

III. Application

A. When persecuted, cry out to God for vindication (Rom 12:17-21)

¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹ Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1. Live uprightly and peacefully
2. Do not seek personal vengeance
3. Give place to wrath
4. Overcome evil with good

B. When persecuted, maintain a good conscience (cf. 1 Pet 2:19-23; 3:13-17)

When we are persecuted, we must strive to maintain a good conscience. We must remember that we do not pursue righteousness because other people are pleased it but because _____ is our Lord and He is pleased by it. We serve God not man.

¹³ And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. "And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled." ¹⁵ But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; ¹⁶ having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. ¹⁷ For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

C. When persecuted, make vows carefully and be sure to keep them.

One of the things that often comes to our hearts and minds when we are in trouble is to make promises to God. Such oaths and promises are not inherently wrong. After all, God regulates these oaths: *This is the thing the Lord has commanded: If a man makes a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth* (Num 30:2).

Keep in mind two things:

- First, when you are in trouble and you're thinking about making a vow to God, make it _____ (cf. Lev 5:4; Jdg 11:29ff).
- Second, when you are in trouble and you end up making an oath to God, _____ your oath when God answers your prayer.

IV. Conclusion