

How to Respond When Facing Persecution

Psalm 109

November 24, 2024

An imprecation is a prayer for vengeance and justice against another person or group of people.

David's Lamentation :: vv. 1-5

David's Imprecation :: vv. 6-20

vv. 6-11 - He's not really praying against the wife and children; he's praying that his abuser be brought to an end. Cut his days short, cause him to die. David wants his abuser's own evil to be returned on his head.

David's Turn to the Lord :: vv. 21-29

Whenever the psalms turn, they always focus on truth about the Lord and then state trust in that truth.

David's Trust in the Lord :: vv. 30-31

When Persecuted, Christians Should:

1. Turn to God and _____ Him

When we are suffering because of the sins of others, the call of Scripture is to turn to God and trust Him.

1 Peter 2:18-23

Matthew 26:36-56 - Garden of Gethsemane

In entrusting the circumstances to God, we are entrusting the imprecations to God as opposed to ourselves.

- **Romans 12:19** - Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

Psalm 73:18-20

2. _____ Out to God

Matthew 7:9-11

3. _____ God

Romans 8:28-32

Meditation

- What has changed about my understanding of God?
- What did Scripture teach me about myself?
- What needs to change in my life as a result of this sermon?
- What areas of my life do I need to focus on my circumstances less and focus on God more? What truths about God do I need to call to mind in these situations?
- For what reasons can I praise God in the midst of suffering (including things *not* having to do with your suffering and for things *having* to do with your suffering)?