

Psalm 5:1-12  
The Prayers of the Righteous  
Evidence of a God-Saturated Life

**Introduction:** Considered a morning prayer to be played on the flutes, while Psalm 3 was a morning prayer and Psalm 4 was an evening prayer played on stringed instruments.

This gives us the impression of waking up to a cloudy morning. How will the rest of the day go for us? David's enemies seem to be lying maliciously about him. To whom or to what will he turn? If he turns to God, what will he pray?

**Superscription:** To the music director. With the flutes. A psalm/melody of David.

**1) Humbly, but deliberately, pray to your sovereign God—5:1-6**

- a) David prays to Yahweh—5:1-2a
  - i) His prayer was spoken: <sup>1</sup> *Listen to my words* (emphatic), *O Yahweh*;
  - ii) His prayer was broken: *discern my* (desperate) *sighing/groaning*.
  - iii) His prayer was desperate: <sup>2</sup> *Pay attention to the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God*;
- b) David explains why he wants Yahweh to listen—5:2b-6 *for/because ...*
  - i) Because of David's determination to pray—5:2b-3
    - (1) *to You I pray*.
    - (2) <sup>3</sup> *O Yahweh, in the morning You hear my voice*;
    - (3) *in the morning I arrange it in order for You and I keep* (expectant) *watch*.
      - (a) While we who are in free churches tend to reject formal eloquence in our prayers, we must also reject thoughtlessness in our prayers.
  - ii) Because David knows His God—5:4-6 <sup>4</sup> *For/because ...*
    - How accurate is this? "God loves the sinner but hates the sin."
    - Here is a righteous man praying to a righteous God for protection from unrighteous people. (Ross)
    - (1) His God has a holy character and standard—5:4
      - (a) *You are not a God who takes pleasure in injustice*,
      - (b) *nor will evil dwell* (receive hospitality/seek asylum) *with You*.
        - (i) People are morally incapable of dwelling in God's presence.
    - (2) His God has a holy, praise-worthy hatred—5:5-6
      - (a) <sup>5</sup> *The **boasting** ones will not stand before Your eyes*;
      - (b) *You hate all who are doing **iniquity***.
      - (c) <sup>6</sup> *You destroy/ruin those who **speaking lies***;
      - (d) *Yahweh detests the **bloodthirsty**/violent/lit. "bloods" and deceitful man*.

**2) Confidently request from your God—5:7-12**

- a) David recognizes the clear contrast with the wicked (whom God hates)—5:7

- Notice that David does not talk about his own moral qualities, but God's
  - i) Lured by God's covenant loyalty: <sup>7</sup> *But I* (emphatic contrast), *through the abundance of Your loyal-love, with enter Your house;*
  - ii) Sobered by awe: *I will worship toward Your holy temple in awe of You.*
- b) David asks Yahweh for providential guidance—5:8
  - i) To live **accurately** before God: <sup>8</sup> *O Yahweh, direct me in Your righteousness (not necessarily in safety) because of my enemies/those lurking for me;*
  - ii) To live **pleasingly** to God: *make Your way straight/level before me.*
- c) David carefully explains why he asks Yahweh for this—5:9 <sup>9</sup> *For/because ...*
  - i) They are characterized by **untrustworthiness**—*there is nothing reliable in their mouth;*
  - ii) They are characterized by **destruction**—*their inward part is destruction;*
  - iii) They are characterized by **corruption**—*their throat is an open grave;*
  - iv) They are characterized by **deceit**—*they flatter with their tongue.*
- d) David righteously asks God to punish the wicked—5:10
  - i) <sup>10</sup> *Make them bear their guilt, O God!*
  - ii) *Let them fall by their own counsels;*
  - iii) *cast them out/banish them because of the multitude of their rebellions,*  
(1) *because they have been defiant/obstinate against You.*
- e) David confidently asks Yahweh for joy and protection—5:11-12
  - Does praying v. 10 make you uncomfortable? How can vv. 11-12 come about unless God answers the prayer of v. 10?
  - i) What are the three things?
    - (1) <sup>11</sup> *But let all who are taking refuge in You rejoice;*
    - (2) *let them ever sing for joy;*
    - (3) *and do defend them*  
(a) Why? *so that those who are loving Your name may rejoice in You.*
  - ii) Why does David ask for these things? <sup>12</sup> *For/because ...*
    - (1) Individual: *You, O Yahweh, bless the righteous one;*
    - (2) Encompassing: *You envelope him with approval/favor as with a shield.*  
(a) Read Davis' account of Thieliicke as a young man. (pp. 69-70)

### 3) Things we need to remember:

- a) Remember that we all begin this life as the wicked are described in these verses. We all are in desperate need of rescue.
- b) We may wish that prayer was all courtesy and finesse. If so, we have no business messing with the Psalms. Prayer must often have a hard edge to it, because it has to deal with evil. (D. R. Davis)
- c) Everything in life must be viewed from the perspective of the high and lofty character of God. (Lawson)