

## Psalm 55      A teaching Psalm of David

<sup>1</sup> Father God, please hear my prayer with interest, and please don't turn a deaf ear to my specific requests for help. <sup>2</sup> Please, please take my requests to heart, and answer me. I am agitated inside, and I am mournful about my troubles. My enemies hate me and are holding a grudge against me for some wrong they believe I have done against them. <sup>3</sup> Their harsh words and the heavy pressure they have forced upon me are all I can think about. As a result, my troubles have completely overwhelmed me. <sup>4</sup> I am all torn up inside, and the fear of death consumes me. <sup>5</sup> Fear often causes me to shake in my sandals, and images of an awful death fill my mind. <sup>6-8</sup> I have often said within myself,

“Oh how I wish I could fly away and find rest. If there was a way for me to do it, I would get as far away as I could and make my home in the wilderness. There I would all by myself and find relief from the constant harassment by people who will do anything to hurt me or take my life.”

Now stop what you are doing, and ponder the severity of my plight. Understand how easy it is to become overwhelmed by such persecution.

<sup>9</sup> O LORD, I have seen these people cause serious strife in the city because of the rough physical force they use to get their way. Cause serious disagreements to surface among them that would make them to take sides against each other, so that they can not work together as a team. <sup>10</sup> They go around the city day and night causing trouble and sorrows for the inhabitants, <sup>11</sup> and it seems like their destruction, oppression, and deceit will never end. <sup>12-13</sup> I could bear up under these hurts and heartaches if it was my enemies who were doing it, but one person among them in particular has singled me out for harassment and injury. If he had been one who hates me I could hide from him, but this guy is a former friend of mine, a man who is my equal. <sup>14</sup> We used to have sweet fellowship around the things of the LORD, but something happened that turned him completely against me. <sup>15</sup> LORD, this man, along with the rest of those wicked men, are totally sold out to doing wickedness, so let all of them die a violent death, and let it happen so quickly that they won't even know what hit them.

<sup>16</sup> Folks, as for me, I will call upon the LORD, and I know He will hear me. <sup>17</sup> I will pray to Him morning, noon, and night sharing my complaint and asking for His help. When I do, I know that He will save me. <sup>18</sup> He will rescue me peacefully from the battle that rages against me, because there are too many of them for me to be able to rescue myself. <sup>19a</sup> I really believe that God will answer my prayers. He is the only One who can since He sits on His throne in the heavens from eternity past to eternity future.

Folks, stop what you are doing, and ponder the severity of my situation. See how I trust God to rescue me, and then realize that He is the only One who can rescue you when you need Him.

<sup>19b</sup> My former friend does not have a fear of the LORD, and I suspect he never will.  
<sup>20</sup> He has attacked those who are at peace with him, and he has abandoned his agreement to be a faithful friend for life. <sup>21</sup> When he talks he says things that sound so nice, but inside he intends to stab me in the back.

<sup>22</sup> When things get hard and you are experiencing hurts, heartaches, or trials, cast all of your troubles upon Jesus Christ<sup>1</sup> for Him to bear. When you do, He will give you the strength to get through them, and He will be there to support you. <sup>23</sup> O LORD, bring these evil men down to the grave. It is only right that I should ask this of You, because the principle of sow and reap teaches that the sin of those who murder and deceive will bring about their premature death. They will not live to be half as old as they would have if they had been good and godly. LORD, regardless of what they do, I will trust in You completely.

<sup>1</sup> In John 14:6 Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ" has been used.

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