

PRAYING PSALM 109

“The mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful have spoken against me with a lying tongue... I give myself to prayer... Let his days be few... Let his children be fatherless... But You, O God the Lord, deal with me for your name’s sake” (Psalm 109:2, 4, 8, 9, 21).

This is an imprecatory psalm (a song calling for judgment). David wrote the psalm. This is not how Jesus taught us to pray in the Sermon on the Mount, but there is a spiritual flow to the psalm. 1. DAVID’S PRAYER FOR HELP (1-5). David was wrongly accused and did right by talking to God about his enemies (see 4, 5, 20, 29). 2. DAVID’S PRAYER AGAINST HIS ENEMIES (6-20). Read David’s requests, and then read Matthew 5:38-48. David was operating under the law of retaliation, which permitted absolute justice to end a dispute. Leviticus 24:20 describes it: “Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he has caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.” This is quite different than what Paul said in Romans 12:21: “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” 3. DAVID’S PRAYER FOR HIMSELF (21-29). Deal with me for your name’s sake. When you hate your enemies, you need to pray for yourself. If you have an enemy pray for him. If someone has wronged you, forgive him (Ephesians 4:30-32). 4. DAVID’S PRAISE TO THE LORD (20-31). I will praise the Lord with my mouth. I will praise Him among the multitude.

Grace changes everything. When you pray for your enemy, don’t use David’s prayer. David lived under the Legal Dispensation given to Moses, not the Dispensation of Grace. The law of retaliation has no place in the church which is governed by the Spirit within, not the law without. The Holy Spirit in you can do what the Law could never do. You will be wrongly accused if you openly live for Jesus. When you are maligned, you must rely on the Spirit within you to do what you can’t do naturally, i.e., forgive. When you state your case before the Lord, pray for yourself like David did. Then ask the Lord to help you forgive your enemy. Hatred is the first sign you need the Lord’s help to forgive. Deal with yourself first. Forgive for Christ’s sake and for deliverance from a desire for revenge. Your prayer may not change your enemy, but it can change you.