

ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT?

Nobody likes to be mistreated. No one enjoys being harassed and hurt. The bible claims from the very beginning that all humans carry God's image, therefore, everyone deserves to be treated with respect and kindness. God's instructions for his people made it clear that the poor, the weak, and the strangers were to be helped and never taken advantage of.

Unfortunately, humans usually act out of selfish interests. We will seize an opportunity to benefit ourselves, even at the expense of others. You may try really hard to treat others with kindness only to have those same people attack you when it benefits them. This is not a recent development. "Man's inhumanity to man" goes all the way back to the first family when jealousy drove Cain to murder his own brother, Abel.

David also felt the sting of betrayal during his life. Psalm 35 is a poem about the sting of betrayal, the feelings of anger, and the desire for justice (even a little retribution). This is one of those psalms that is completely open and honest about what it feels like to be human. David felt like he was getting a "raw deal" and he was ready for God to do something about it!

The song breaks down into three main sections (1-10, 11-18, and 19-28) which each begin with a request, a question, and even a mild accusation for the LORD. He continues by explaining to God what he wishes would happen to the people who are attacking him. When you read through the psalm, you will see that David doesn't pull any punches. He basically asks God to make everything happen to those people that they are trying to make happen to him. He wants them to be force-fed a giant dose of their own medicine.

I'm not saying that we should pray for the downfall of others. I believe this psalm is in the collection to show us that we don't have to be afraid to tell God what is on our minds. So, the next time you are wondering why God is not listening to you or not acting quickly enough, tell him about it. Tell him how you feel. Get it off your chest - he can take it. As a matter of fact, he wants you to cast all your cares and concerns on him because he cares for you.

When you do this, maybe it will remind you that ultimately God will make all things right. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

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