

Preaching the Psalms Series

(20)

Psalm 5

How to Deal with Lies and Slander,

Psalm 5:1-12

Psalm 5:1-12 (NASB)

¹“Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my groaning.

²Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray.

³In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order *my prayer* to You and *eagerly* watch.

⁴For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.

⁵The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.

⁶You destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.

⁷But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.

⁸O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.

⁹There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction *itself*. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰**Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.**

¹¹But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You.

¹²For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.”

(Psalm 5:1-12) Introduction: since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Japan) on August 6 and 9, 1945, the world has lived in fear of nuclear destruction. The most dangerous weapon known to humanity, however, is far simpler and more common than sophisticated nuclear warheads. It has damaged and destroyed far more people than all the collective weapons of war in world history.

It is extremely deadly and each of us possesses it:

James 3:5-8 (NASB)

⁵“So also the tongue is a small part of the body, and *yet* it boasts of great things. See how great a forest is set aflame by such a small fire!

⁶And the tongue is a fire, the *very* world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of *our* life, and is set on fire by hell.

⁷ For every species of beasts and birds, of reptiles and creatures of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by the human race.

⁸ But no one can tame the tongue; *it is a restless evil and full of deadly poison.*"

Sinful and self-centered people use words to ruthlessly destroy others. When we are stabbed by slander and lies, we usually feel helpless to defend ourselves. It is just impossible to know everybody who has heard an untrue rumor or story about us. It is even more impossible to control whether they believe it. Sinners enjoy a juicy morsel of gossip and are prone to believe the worst without caring to verify its truth. What can we do when others slander and lie about us?

In this prayer of David, the Holy Spirit, the great Inspirer of Scripture, shows us what to do when we are lied about and slandered. It stands as a timeless pattern for us to follow as long as we live in a wicked, sin-cursed world. **This is, *How to Deal with Lies and Slander*, [Psalm 5:1-12](#)**

1. Turn to the Lord for help (vv. 1-3).

2. Confess God's holiness: Five facts (vv. 4-6).

3. Make a renewed commitment to be faithful in prayer and worship (v. 7).

4. Pray for three major things (vv. 8-12).

2. ([Psalm 5:4-6](#)) Confess God's holiness: **Five facts.**

[Psalm 5:4-6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.

⁵The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.

⁶ You destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.”

After citing his faithful relationship with the Lord, David appealed to God's righteous character as the basis for giving attention to his request. He listed **five facts** of God's holiness, virtues that his enemies were violating. In so doing, David **“implicitly distinguishes himself from the sinners who are not heard by the Lord.”**

a. He takes no pleasure in evil ([v. 4](#)).

[Psalm 5:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You.”

Consider how far removed from God we are as sinful humans. The righteous character of God cannot delight in wickedness, not even in a single act of evil behavior. The evil referred to in this psalm is the sin of slandering others, gossiping and spreading rumors about them. People who lie about others actually receive some perverted pleasure from their wicked deeds. It gives them a sense of being **superior** or **better than** the person being degraded or slandered. It arouses a sense of satisfaction in their corrupt, depraved natures.

b. He rejects the wicked and arrogant: Does not allow them to live in His presence (v. 5).

Psalm 5:5 (NASB)

⁵“The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.”

God’s holiness cannot tolerate any presence of sin whatsoever. Sinners cannot enter into His presence (**Psalm 24:3-5**).

Psalm 24:3-5 (NASB)

³“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place?

⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood And has not sworn deceitfully.

⁵He shall receive a blessing from the LORD And righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

Psalm 5:5 (NASB)

⁵“The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.”

Boastful or foolish (halal) literally means to make to shine, to praise, to boast. Other versions translate it here as *boastful, proud, and arrogant*. It is the sin of Satan, who exalted himself above God (**Isaiah 14:13-14**).

Isaiah 14:13-14 (NASB)

¹³“But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

¹⁴‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’”

Pride is the sin that tops the list of seven abominations against the Lord (**Proverbs 6:16-19**).

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB)

¹⁶“There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

¹⁷Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

¹⁹A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.”

c. He hates all wrongdoers (v. 5).

Psalm 5:5 (NASB)

⁵“The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity.”

Some people struggle with the statement that God hates evildoers. They do not understand how God can hate anybody, especially in light of the New Testament teaching that denounces hatred and likens it to murder (**1 Juan 3:15**).

1 John 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵“Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

What must be understood is this: God’s hatred of sin and sinners is not an uncontrolled emotional response. “**The hatred of God is not an irrational outburst, but God’s moral response to our immorality, or, here, to those who do evil.**”

God’s *heartfelt emotion* toward sinners is love, love that was demonstrated in the sacrifice of His Son for our sins ([John 3:16](#); [Romans 5:8](#)).

John 3:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Romans 5:8 (NASB)

⁸“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Hatred is the response of His *righteous character* toward sin, the response of His *holy nature* against those who continue in rebellion against Him.

d. He destroys the liar (v. 6).

Psalm 5:6 (NASB)

⁶“You destroy those who speak **falsehood**; The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.”

Psalm 5:6 (KJV)

⁶“Thou shalt destroy them that speak **leasings**: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”

The lying tongue is second only to the proud demeanor on God’s list of most hated sins ([Proverbs 6:16-19](#)).

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB)

¹⁶“There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

¹⁹ A false witness *who* utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.”

Leasing is an Old English word for lie or falsehood. God so detests lying because we are never more like Satan than when we lie, especially when we lie about others. He is a liar and the father of all lies ([John 8:44](#)).

John 8:44 (NASB)

⁴⁴“You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

He constantly levels false accusations against God ([Ge. 3:4-5](#)), and he slanders the sons and daughters of God ([Re. 12:10](#)).

[Genesis 3:4 \(NASB\)](#)

⁴“The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!”

[Revelation 12:10 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁰“Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.”

e. He abhors the deceitful ([v. 6](#)).

[Psalm 5:6 \(NASB\)](#)

⁶“You destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.”

[Psalm 5:6 \(KJV\)](#)

⁶“Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the **bloody** and **deceitful** man.”

Bloody or **bloodthirsty** and **deceitful** are tied together in this verse. They jointly describe a person who violently destroys other people by spreading lies about them. A deceiver dupes others into turning against another person or group.

The remaining five abominations of [Proverbs 6:16-19](#) expound this point: **the deceitful attack the innocent, devise wicked stories, stir up mischief, and bear false witness for the purpose of sowing discord and hurting other people.**

Thought 1. In our efforts to share the love of God for sinners, we must be careful not to diminish His attributes of holiness and righteousness. The wrath of God has been clearly revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness and ungodliness of people ([Romans 1:18](#)).

[Romans 1:18 \(NASB\)](#)

¹⁸“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.”

God, through His boundless love, has made it possible for sinners to be saved from His wrath ([Romans 5:8-9](#)).

[Romans 5:8-9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁸“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.”

But we must believe—repent and receive Christ—in order to be delivered from the wages of sin. If we do not believe, we will suffer death ([Romans 6:23](#)).

Romans 6:23 (NASB)

²³“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This does not refer only to physical death, but spiritual death: eternal separation from God in hell—the contrast to eternal life.

In the great **Book of Revelation**, as God’s message to humanity comes to an end, the redeemed are seen eternally dwelling with God in a new heaven and earth (**Revelation 21-22**). But immediately prior to these chapters is a terrifying, sobering scene: all the unrighteous dead—those who have not been made righteous (justified) through faith in Jesus Christ—are resurrected to stand before God in judgment. They are tried and convicted for their sins, then cast into the lake of fire for eternity (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

Revelation 20:11-15 (NASB)

¹¹“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.

¹²And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.

¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

¹⁵And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

As we share God’s love with sinners, we must also remind them of God’s holiness and righteousness that cannot be compromised when dealing with sin.

1 John 1:5 (NASB)

⁵“This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.”

Habakkuk 1:13 (NASB)

¹³“*Your* eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You can not look on wickedness *with favor*. Why do You look with favor On those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?”