

Preaching the Psalms Series

(21)

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.

¹⁰Hold 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).

3. ([Psalm 5:7](#)) Make a renewed commitment to be faithful in prayer and worship.

[Psalm 5:7 \(NASB\)](#)

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

David sharply contrasted himself with the evildoers of whom he had spoken ([vv. 4-6](#)).

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

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

⁵ The 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."

He had already declared the fact that he was faithful in worshipping the Lord daily ([v. 3](#)).

[Psalm 5:3 \(NASB\)](#)

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

Now, he presents himself anew before his King and his God. He makes a renewed commitment to be faithful in prayer and worship.

a. Approach God through His great mercy ([v. 7](#)).

Psalm 5:7 (NASB)

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

Psalm 5:7 (KJV)

7 “But as for me, I will come *into* thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: *and* in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.”

It is only through God’s mercy that we have access to Him. *Mercy* (**chesed**) is God’s unfailing, steadfast love, His unmerited favor and devotion to us. This trait stirs God to offer His covenant to us, and to unfailingly keep His covenant with us. We may fail the Lord, but He never fails us. Mercy is one of His attributes, one of the qualities that reveals His unparalleled character. God is not stingy with His mercy; His house is filled with His steadfast love. It is more than sufficient to cover our sin.

David made a promise to the Lord: when he returned to Jerusalem, he would again come into God’s house, the tabernacle, the place where His holy presence dwelt. If the setting of this psalm is Absalom’s rebellion, this is a great statement of faith in God’s deliverance. David had fled from Jerusalem into the wilderness ([2 Samuel 15:14-23](#)).

2 Samuel 15:14-23 (NASB)

14 “David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise and let us flee, for *otherwise* none of us will escape from Absalom. Go in haste, or he will overtake us quickly and bring down calamity on us and strike the city with the edge of the sword.”

15 Then the king’s servants said to the king, “Behold, your servants *are ready to do* whatever my lord the king chooses.”

16 So the king went out and all his household with him. But the king left ten concubines to keep the house.

17 The king went out and all the people with him, and they stopped at the last house.

18 Now all his servants passed on beside him, all the Cherethites, all the Pelethites and all the Gittites, six hundred men who had come with him from Gath, passed on before the king.

19 Then the king said to Ittai the Gittite, “Why will you also go with us? Return and remain with the king, for you are a foreigner and also an exile; *return to your own place.*”

20 “You came *only* yesterday, and shall I today make you wander with us, while I go where I will? Return and take back your brothers; mercy and truth be with you.”

21 But Ittai answered the king and said, “As the LORD lives, and as my lord the king lives, surely wherever my lord the king may be, whether for death or for life, there also your servant will be.”

22 Therefore David said to Ittai, “Go and pass over.” So Ittai the Gittite passed over with all his men and all the little ones who *were* with him.

23 While all the country was weeping with a loud voice, all the people passed over. The king also passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over toward the way of the wilderness.”

Before the battle against Absalom's forces ever began, he committed himself to worship the Lord after the victory had been won. Note two significant facts:

First, David's pledge to be faithful in worship was an acknowledgement that victory over such impossible odds could come only through the Lord. It would be the Lord's faithfulness—His covenant promises—that would make God's dear servant victorious.

Second, although David refers to his faithfulness in this prayer ([v. 3](#)), he acknowledged that it would be God's mercy that delivered him, not his own righteousness.

Psalm 5:3 (NASB)

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

b. Be reverent ([v. 7](#)).

Psalm 5:7 (NASB)

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

David made an unusual commitment to the Lord: while he was in the wilderness, when he worshipped, he would bow down and pray in the direction of the Lord's holy *temple* or dwelling-place. In reverence (fear) of the Lord, he would bow toward Jerusalem. Fear is the reverential awe and recognition of who God is, an attitude that results in submissive obedience to Him and His Word. David recommitted himself to walk humbly before the Lord during the time that he was forced out of Zion.

Thought 1. Confronting overwhelming odds, David offered himself as a living sacrifice to the Lord ([Romans 12:1-2](#)). He prayed and trusted God for victory, but, at the same time, he was fully aware that God could choose otherwise.

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)

¹“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship.

²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

God often grants victory to His faithful people, but He sometimes chooses that they suffer for His glory. It is great faith that believes God for the victory, but it is greater faith that is devoted enough to trust and worship God in the midst of suffering and trial—to submit even to death if God should choose. David demonstrated this kind of faith and commitment.

This is the kind of faith we must have as well. When God, for His purposes, chooses not to deliver us from some trial, we must still trust in Him. When He gives and when He takes away, we must still bless His name ([Job 1:21](#)).

Job 1:21 (NASB)

²¹ “He said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

We must trust Him and glory in the strength He gives to endure the trials that confront us ([2 Corinthians 12:8-9](#)).

2 Corinthians 12:8-9 (NASB)

⁸ “Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

⁹ And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

God is always true to Himself and His dear children. If we love Him, He will work all things together for our good ([Romans 8:28](#)).

Romans 8:28 (NASB)

²⁸ “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.”

Matthew 26:39 (NASB)

³⁹ “And He went a little beyond *them*, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

Matthew 26:42 (NASB)

⁴² “He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done.”

Acts 7:59-60 (NASB)

⁵⁹ “They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!”

⁶⁰ Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.”

Hebrews 11:36-38 (NASB)

³⁶ “And others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.

³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated

³⁸ (*men* of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.”

Daniel 3:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ “If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

¹⁸ But *even* if *He does* not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”