

Introduction

- 1 Recently saw a TV news report which told how a woman affected by drugs, alcohol in an act of road rage drove her car at group of youth, hit 21yo who died in his brother's arms
- 2 David wrote Psalm 58 while trying to escape capture and possible death by King Saul & co.
- 3 In his anger he prayed this prayer to God, the supreme Judge to **a** Set right the affairs of men, who corrupt justice, but also **b** To help those who do the right thing in God's eyes.
- 4 Down through OT history, Israel had a constant problem with corrupt rulers and judges.

I 58:1-11 Content of David's Prayer to God**A 58:1-2 Rulers and Judges accused of violence and injustice for the poor**

- 1 David emphasizes-those who don't judge with integrity**58:1**, will be judged by God**58:11**
- 2 David writes Psalm with a social conscience, due to wickedness among Jewish leaders who twist justice to suit themselves and other leaders - also saw this in book of Micah
- 3 **58:1** In their absence David asks rulers, judges whether they're ruling, judging honestly
- 4 **58:2** He then answers by accusing them of acting badly by finding innocent guilty then punish wrong people**eg** M.E. regimes are jailing doctors for treating injured protestors
- 5 **58:1-2** These rulers & judges **speak** but in **hearts** plan injustice, then **use hands** to do it

B 58:3-5 Their wicked ways from the time of their birth are exposed

- 1 **58:3** David again affirms what he said in Psalm **51:5** last week, from birth every single person is born naturally sinful and self-centred with rebellious spirit towards God.
- 2 Everyone's under God's judgement, separated from His love - need God to intervene
- 3 That is the reason God sent Jesus to die on cross to pay penalty for every person's sin
- 4 **58:3b** From birth don't have to be taught how to lie, do it naturally-follow father of lies
- 5 Problem with these leaders - they were not interested in God's help- only pleasing self
- 6 **58:4-5** Their evil deeds are like poison from a snake, they have closed their ears to any advice from God or any of the people, who serve Him among the Jewish people
 - a** We have probably seen pictures of Indian people blowing a flute and cobra swaying
 - b** Music distracts cobra from attacking people, and makes it focus only on the tune.
 - c** Here David says if cobra doesn't hear music, then he will use its poison to attack
 - d** These rulers, judges only focus on self-interest evil, ignore God's law, prophets
 - e** The words that come out of their mouths are as cruel and deadly as snake's poison

C 58:6-9 Strong Prayer for God to judge and destroy them - this is what they deserve

- 1 David lived in an honour/shame culture, incl. eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth justice
- 2 David prayed very nasty/strong words to God, as he was angry about injustice in Israel
- 2 He uses pictures used traditionally for curses in ancient Middle East to show his anger
 - a 58:6** To stop them speaking evil words he prays God will break/tear out their teeth
Wicked are compared to strong lions- if tear out their teeth, made much weaker
 - b 58:7** As water runs into the ground and disappears-let the wicked disappear like that
As they go into battle David asks that their bows, arrows fail to defeat enemies
 - c 58:8** Some slugs/snails may dry up to nothing as they move over stones in hot sun
As with stillborn child he prays wicked will never see the light of God's goodness
eg Jesus "If Judas betrayed Him would be better if he hadn't been born" **Mk 14:21**
 - d 58:9** Foodpot is ready for fire to cook, but great wind arrives, blows everything away
It talks of God's sudden judgement on the wicked, whom God will sweep away

D 58:10-11 Righteous will rejoice after God judges the wicked & blesses the righteous

- 1 58:10 Righteous will leave God to judge wicked-will rejoice when He does it His way
David won't seek revenge—will leave God to judge, be glad to see justice happen
- 10b Will be like the victorious survivor of a conflict, walking over battlefield of blood
His deliverance will be complete - can rejoice in it - not worry about his enemies
- 2 58:11 When God judges evil all will see righteous win, at the end under God's just rule
God does not give the godly up and hand them over to their enemies forever
Evil seems to win, but when God does judge earth He'll reward righteous Rom 2:5,16
- 3 History's full of evil men who've done bad things—Hitler; Pol Pot; Gaddafi; Hussein-death
- 4 Time will remove doubts for those with faith in God to fulfill His purposes thru' Jesus

II Some New Testament Teaching about “anger” – All struggle, must pray for God's help

A What does anger mean and what makes you and me become angry?

- 1 **Definition** “Feeling of sudden and strong displeasure and antagonism directed against the cause of an assumed wrong or injury: Hot displeasure
- 2 **What causes anger?** “Become annoyed, irritated, upset about things/people, resent things; there's no justice; my opinion isn't valued; What makes you/me angry often?

B Mark 3:5 Is “Anger, being angry” or “righteous anger” always sin?

- 1 Pharisees wanted to test, see if Jesus would heal man with shriveled hand on Sabbath
- 2 Lord asked Pharisees if was lawful on Sabbath to do good or evil, to save life or to kill?
- 4 He knew they weren't interested in disabled man, only to catch Him disobeying OT law
- 5 3:5 He looked at them with anger because of the hardness of their hearts – was not sin
- 6 This was righteous anger towards sinful people and the Lord was able to heal the man
- 7 Read of Chns persecuted for their faith, others treated badly-produces righteous anger
eg Dictators in M.E. killing own people, Stalin killing millions, genocide Ruanda N Korea

C James 1:19-20 Be Slow to anger, for man's anger doesn't bring about the righteous life

- 1 We all have different personalities, some find it hard to control anger, **but** others don't
- 2 As Chns we need to work on area of self-control it's harder for some –last fruit of Spirit
- 3 1:19-20 “Everyone should be **a** Quick to hear, **b** Slow to speak **c** Slow to become angry
WHY? Because man's anger does not bring about the right type of life God desires.
- 5 When we're angry we often do/say things we regret, then it's too late to take back.

D Romans 12:19-21 Do not take revenge, leave that to God, who will judge everyone

- 1 12:17 As Chns we must show high moral standards of the gospel or non-Chns can mock
a 12:18 Through Holy Spirit's help live at peace with everyone by loving enemies Rom 5:5
- b** 12:19 Do not take revenge against anyone no matter what, because that is God's job
eg Jealous Saul was trying to kill David, yet David refused 2x to murder God's chosen 1
- c** 12:20 Don't take revenge, love your enemy by showing kindness thru' help of Spirit
- d** David didn't celebrate Saul's death in battle-mourned him-God's chosen king 2 Sam 1

E Ephesians 4:26-27 Get rid of anger in your heart or it will destroy you

- 1 Christians “**In your anger, do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry**”
a 4:26 In your anger do not sin – Problem - anger can grow, later regret actions/words
- b** 4:26b **Strong warning** once angry, get rid of it - ask God's help, if sin, confess quickly
- c** 4:27 If store/hide anger in heart **a** Will eat you up **b** Invite Satan to weaken your faith