

# From Shame to Salvation

July 30 2017

Imprecation: “to pray evil against” or “to invoke curse upon”

## Two Different Perspectives on the Imprecatory Psalms

1. They're 2nd class Psalms, connected to the Old Testament law, not the New Testament gospel.

“We must not either try to explain them away or to yield for one moment to the idea that, because it comes in the Bible, all the vindictive hatred must somehow be good and pious...We should be wicked if we in any way condoned or approved it.” - CS Lewis

2. They highlight God's heart for those struck by injustice and evil.

“The ferocious parts of the Psalms serve as a reminder that there is in the world such a thing as wickedness and that...is hateful to God.” - CS Lewis

## Understanding the Imprecatory Psalms Through Psalm 83

1. They bring the struggle of suffering into the religious life.

O God, do not remain silent;  
do not turn a deaf ear,  
do not stand aloof, O God. Psalm 83:1

2. They remind us of the violent oppression many face.

See how your enemies growl,  
how your foes rear their heads.  
With cunning they conspire against your people;  
they plot against those you cherish. Psalm 83:2-3

3. They show us that shame can lead to salvation.

May they ever be ashamed and dismayed;  
may they perish in disgrace.  
Let them know that you, whose name is the Lord -  
that you alone are the Most High over all the earth. Psalm 83:17-18

4. They humble us, because we are that evil too.

The evil we ask God to rise up against also lives in us.

## Discussion Questions:

- In reading Psalm 83 and other Imprecatory Psalms, what's your initial reaction to them?
- Explain a circumstance when you were guilty of something sinful, but it led to turnaround for your life.
- What is an evil thing taking place in the world today that you can ask God to rise up against? Consider praying about this, asking for God's intervention, every day this week.

PICNIC IN THE PARK—SUNDAY AUGUST 13 @ 10AM

Our 8th annual picnic & baptism is at Keizer Rapids Park Amphitheatre. What you need to bring: A lawn chair or a blanket to sit on, your plates & silverware & a potluck dish. Also, if your last name starts with:

**A-M—bring Salad | N-Z—bring Dessert.** The church is providing grilled chicken & hot dogs.

*If you would like to be baptized at this event, please mark “Baptism” on a Connection Card or text “Baptism” to 971.301.4008 & Barry will contact you.*