

Psalm 59 Beware of the Dogs

by Pastor Roy Hogan

Have you ever been threatened by a malicious dog? In our society, it is no uncommon to encounter guard dogs. Guard dogs have been trained to attack strangers and intruders. A vicious dog sends chills up my spine. When I walk through my neighborhood, I carry dog-repellant in my pocket just in case a savage dog interrupts my walk.

Bible scholars are not in agreement as to the time this Psalm was written to David. The heading of this chapter reads, in part *Michtam of David when Saul sent and they watched the house of David to kill him*. This being said, this is likely a Psalm penned down by David early in his life while Saul was king and was diligently stalking him. I believe the answer is found in I Samuel 19 for there we read:

I Samuel 19:11-17 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. 12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. 13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster; and covered it with a cloth. 14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick. 15 And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. 16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. 17 And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

In the account of I Samuel 19, Saul had given his younger daughter, Michal, to David to be his wife. Michal loved David. David became Saul's son-in-law. Can you believe it! So, it is

probable that Saul gave David and Michal a house to live in that was likely close by the place. Saul sent messengers to David and Michal's house each morning to watch him, and to slay him. These spies of Saul's are likely the dogs referred to in Psalm 59. Human beings possessed by the Devil can become as mean as ravaging dogs.

59:1-2

Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me.

2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloody men.

This is an urgent plea to God offered by David. A man's home is his castle. A man's home is his safe-haven. Who, in their right mind, would like to be awakened each morning by a group of hostile men seeking to kill him? You are lying in the bed trying to get your eyes open and face another day. You are awakened by the voice of prowlers and intruders speaking threats against you, even to the extent of advertising that they have come to take your life. Who would want to live such a life? Who deserves to be assailed in this fashion? Again, human beings can act like dogs.

59:3

For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul: the mighty are gathered against me; not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O LORD.

Jealously is a monster. Godly jealousy is a good thing for we read God was jealous of his people. Saul had one problem, and it was jealousy toward David. David was more handsome than Saul. David was a better warrior than Saul. David was an accomplished musician. Saul couldn't play dead. The people preferred the handsome warrior over their king, Saul. I believe jealousy to be the sole reason Saul hated David. To make matters worse, his younger daughter fell in love with the man, David, that Saul hated. The only reason Saul gave his daughter Michal to David to be his wife was so that she could be used as a pawn to bring David down.

David seems on his knees praying honestly to God. I think it is interesting that David reminds God that he has not sinned. He tells God “I have not transgressed nor have I sinned.” When we are in time of affliction, we sometimes think we may have wronged God. This is normal behavior for a child of God. A child of God has no problem telling God “if I am the cause of the problem, please let me know.”

59:4

They run and prepare themselves without my fault: awake to help me, and behold.

We may come boldly to the throne of grace. We have this promise in the book of Hebrews. Here, David calls on God to wake up and help him. He is surely in urgent need.

59:5

Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah

This is an interesting statement by David. David is not thinking only of his own dreadful situation hounded by the enemy, but he calls on God to help others everywhere who are troubles by enemies. I admire David for many reasons, and one of the reasons is his compassionate heart for others. While he was in trouble, he prayed for others. This is a good lesson for all of God’s children. We all have problems, but so do our neighbors, our children, and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us not forget to pray for ones. We are commanded to bear one another’s burdens. David’s words to God were “God, help me but taking care of my enemies, but please also attend to the heathen everywhere that are afflicting the righteous.”

59:6-7

They return at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. 7 Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?

Saul had a pack of vicious dogs on the trail of David. Saul was a vile man. At evening time, the hounds went into the city telling the citizens lies against David. They belched out lies throughout the city. The dogs had lips like swords. Lies cut like a sword. That is still true today. Folks still slice one another up with lies. Lying is of hell and the devil. He is the father of the lie. Every lie told is a billboard bragging on Satan.

59:8-10

But thou, O LORD, shalt laugh at them; thou shalt have all the heathen in derision. 9 Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence. 10 The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies.

It seems human nature to throw rocks at vicious dogs, even shoot them with a weapon. David likely had the thought of “getting even” or “giving the enemy what they have coming.” We pause to remember that David was a champion warrior. On the occasion of this writing, he is not far removed from killing both a lion and a bear that barked at his father’s sheep. David could likely have wiped out all these dogs had he so minded.

However, he did the right thing. He decided to *wait upon thee, for God is my defence*, verse 9. He did what many serving time in prison today forgot to do, and that is to let God avenge the enemy. Romans 12:17-21 *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. 18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. 19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. 20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. 21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.*

David believed, as stated in verse 10, that God would let the day come when he would see God do to the enemy what David would like to have done. Keep in mind that David is, in a sense, no ordinary man. David is God's *anointed*. If you want trouble, rise up against one of God's *anointed*. I have seen too many funerals where, though it was no my plight to know the reason for death, there was plenty of evidence that the one in the coffin was there because of their offense against the *anointed*.

59:11-12

Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield. 12 For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.

I Timothy 5:20 says *Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear*. David had a few people on his side. David wanted those on his side to see the hand of God as he administered judgement on David's enemies. We all can profit by seeing the hand of God in judgement. I believe it has a threefold benefit:

- We get to experience the good feeling of victory for the good guy.
- We learn a lesson to not repeat the mistakes of the evil person and risk experiencing God's hand of judgement.
- We see proof yet again that, regardless of what men think, *God is in charge*.

59:13-15

13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be: and let them know that God ruleth in Jacob unto the ends of the earth. Selah 14 And at evening let them return; and let them make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city. 15 Let them wander up and down for meat, and grudge if they be not satisfied.

David seems to have found peace and comfort from his talk with the Lord. He stops short of asking God to kill the enemy. Rather, he says let the dogs continue to wander about morning and evening looking for meat. Let them continue to look and find no meat. Let them look some more. After a period of looking and not finding, what happens? The vicious, energetic dogs begin to starve and wither. Their bark becomes a whimper. Their growl is a whine. With no meat for their belly, they fade away.

59:16-17

But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. 17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

David now has a song of sweet peace and victory on his mind, in his ear. and in his heart. Gone is the angry growl of the wicked, savaging, lying dogs. I am reminded of the song *He Whispers Sweet Peace to Me*.