

Monday, 22 July 2019 Psalm 59:1-4a

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam of David, when Saul sent men to watch his house in order to kill him. Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; protect me from those who rise up against me; deliver me from those who work evil, and save me from bloodthirsty men. For behold, they lie in wait for my life; fierce men stir up strife against me. For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD, for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.

Lord, it is evil affections that rise up to destroy my peace and joy from you. Cast away doubt, lust, covetousness, pride, self-centeredness, anger, slander and gossip, greed, gluttony, and all that come between you and me. Deal harshly with those affections to purge them from my heart. Create in me a clean heart, oh Lord.

Protect me from those who speak evil of me, especially those who seek to sow strife and who blame me for their failures. Teach me, Lord, to respond in love, with compassion, and without anger or harshness.

Tuesday, 23 July 2019 Psalm 59:4b-10

Awake, come to meet me, and see! You, LORD God of hosts, are God of Israel. Rouse yourself to punish all the nations; spare none of those who treacherously plot evil. Selah

Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. There they are, bellowing with their mouths with swords in their lips-- for "Who," they think, "will hear us?" But you, O LORD, laugh at them; you hold all the nations in derision. O my Strength, I will watch for you, for you, O God, are my fortress. My God in his steadfast love will meet me; God will let me look in triumph on my enemies.

You, my Lord, are a strong wall about me, a hedge of protection against my enemies, both those affections so beloved by the Evil One and those individuals who seek my harm. The Holy Spirit provides the shield and the transforming power to defeat the lures of the Old Man; He prevents the lies and allegations of my enemies from interfering with my communion with You. I am safe in Your gentle arms.

Wednesday, 24 July 2019 Psalm 59:11-13

Kill them not, lest my people forget; make them totter by your power and bring them down, O Lord, our shield! For the sin of their mouths, the words of their lips, let them be trapped in their pride. For the cursing and lies that they utter; consume them in wrath; consume them till they are no more, that they may know that God rules over Jacob to the ends of the earth. Selah

Lord, show Your awesome power to those who would afflict me. Bring judgment down upon them that they may know that they are living in conflict with You and Your word. Turn their cursing and lies back on them so that their anger may consume them. Guide them to turn to You for relief and healing; bring them to their knees in repentance and sorrow.

Thursday, 25 July 2019 Psalm 59:14-17

Each evening they come back, howling like dogs and prowling about the city. They wander about for food and growl if they do not get their fill. But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress. O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love.

O, Lord, in times of distress, I must turn to you and Your strength. How can I survive when my knees quake from fear, except that You keep me within Your steadfast love. Help me and guide me to turn to You rather than kicking against those who seek my harm. Praise You, my Lord and my Master, as You stand between me and my foes.

Friday, 26 July 2019 Psalm 119:11

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

You have given me the heart to store Your Word. Is that not the difference between man and the other created creatures? That I have a heart that responds to You? A heart that either rejects You or seeks You? How can I know You unless I can know not-you?

And this heart, this beautiful heart hears You, it seeks You, it accepts Your Word and applies Your Word to my life. Not through my agency, but the Understanding working in me. Praise You, Lord

Saturday, 27 July 2019

Psalm 119:13

With my lips I declare all the rules of Your mouth.

You are calling me, my Lord, to teach Your word in the place where You have set me. The rules of Your mouth are the Truth that reveals the well-ordered workings of Your Kingdom. I am to declare that Truth by being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is in me; yet doing it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when I am slandered, those who revile my good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

Lord's Day, 28 July 2019 *Exodus 20:1-2, 15*

And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. ... You shall not steal."

My calling is to give out, enhance, buildup, encourage, bless, distribute. You have filled me to a full measure, tamped down and overflowing to be given to others. To the extent that I do not share, I am stealing.

Voices Together is available as two annual volumes of meditations based on Psalm 1 through 75 and Psalm 76 through 150. A companion book, *The Love Story*, is a 22 week series of meditations based on Psalm 119. They are available through the Fellowship of Ailbe book store at www.ailbe.org/bookstore/christian-discipline

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Scriptures



July 22-28, 2019

Prayer of the week, based on Paul's prayer in: Ephesians 1:3ff
Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Lord, I am overwhelmed by the richness and power of this prayer. To be blessed in the Heavens with EVERY spiritual blessing is a richness beyond my comprehension. And to think that this prayer of the Apostle Paul was written almost 2000 years ago but that precious 'us' sprinkled through the passage carries through to us, the saints of the 21st century; too much for my simple mind. I can only lift my voice along with my brothers in the Fellowship in praise and thanksgiving.

Hallelujah, my Lord and Savior.

Voices Together is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ. All Scripture is from the ESV unless otherwise noted. These messages can also be received as daily emails or in a monthly printed version by sending a request to:

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