

## Enemies

June 21st, 2020 by Kasey Crawford

Today's Passages: Psalm 5 & 51, Romans 3:25-26, Matthew 5:43-48

In **Psalm 5** David cries out to God about his enemies:

**Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you. Psalm 5:10**

How many of you can relate to David's cry for justice against his enemy?

David is tapping in to something that he holds dear to be true: God is a God of justice and He does not turn a blind eye to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne. Ps89:14**

What hope would the world have to get better, what (eternal) future would be worth living, if God isn't a God of justice who hates evil?

How does David want God to respond to evil in **Psalm 5**? \_\_\_\_\_

After the prophet Nathan exposes David's evil toward Bathsheba and Uriah, in **Psalm 51** David cries out to God about himself:

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Ps 51:1**

Can you see the huge contrast?

When he is praying about the evil that his enemies have done against him he prays for...\_\_\_\_\_ (**Psalm 5:10**)

When he is praying about the evil that he has done against others he prays for...\_\_\_\_\_ (see next page)

**According to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions (51:1)  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me (51:11) Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God (51:14)**

Both are a normal part of life. Both are authentic prayers to God.

Both point to the fullness found in Jesus.

In the messiah, justice and mercy have \_\_\_\_\_. (**Psalm 85:10**)

**God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement...so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:25-26**

So when we get to Jesus' teaching about living this new way of life he called the Kingdom of God, he addresses the issue of enemies:

<sup>43</sup> **"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...5:43-44**

**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36 (NIV)**

Jesus calls us to take that same awareness of the personal need that we have for mercy and extend it to others in the same way you want God to extend mercy to \_\_\_\_\_.

While always remaining opposed to evil actions and not afraid to speak out against evil, Jesus teaches and lives out a new ethic: \_\_\_\_\_

are not the enemy. Satan is the enemy. The battle is spiritual.

Everyone is a candidate for the Kingdom.

The battle is not against people, it is \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Responding to God...**

Is there an "enemy" you can stop fighting against and start fighting for?

What could that look like?

Answers: evil, justice, justice, mercy, kissed, you, people, for