

THE HELPER OF THE NEEDY

Psalm 10

Psalm 10 is for... the family in Sri Lanka that must live amid the constant uncertainty about where the next terrorist bombing might occur: "The bus that blew up had been packed with both explosives and ball bearings, in order to inflict terrible injuries, and it was in our section of town, not some place remote from where we drive every day." Psalm 10 is for the young man who was subjected to systematic torture, mind control, threats, and sexual violence as a child in boarding school. It is for the pastor who faces malcontents in the church who are out to get him. It is for the worker on the shop floor being persecuted for her faith because she won't join in drunkenness and immorality. It is for the college student whose professor has an ax to grind against God. It is for the family that lives in a high crime neighborhood. It is for the recent widow on whom a home-repair scam preys. It is for anyone under assault from external temptations. It is for anyone exposed to the intellectual culture or the mass media culture of this modern and post-modern age. We live in a world where a roaring lion prowls, where many people are not friends wishing your welfare, but enemies wishing to use you and harm you.

Psalm 10 guides a person into knowing God in the midst of being violated.

David Powlison, "Predator, Prey, and Protector: Helping Victims Think and Act from Psalm 10," *The Journal of Biblical Counseling* vol. 16.3, p 28.

Much of the information for this sermon has been adapted from this article.

- I. **CRYING (1):** God calls us to cry out, putting our suffering into words directed at Him.

- II. **CONFRONTATION (2-11):** God encourages us to confront those who have afflicted us.

Satan: We often overlook the deeply spiritual nature of our struggles here on earth and forget that Satan is like a prowling lion, searching for believers to devour and destroy.

The World: Sometimes there is no one to "blame" for our suffering. Sometimes it is just the price of life in a fallen, broken world.

Others: Often there is a name and a face behind our pain, when others sin against us.

Self: We all own sinful hearts, and they were such before anyone did us wrong. That another has wounded you is a great tragedy, but it is never a blank check for you to grow in sin and disobedience.

- III. **CONFIDENCE (12-18):** We can trust God to heal our wounds because He is the Sovereign King who is both the Judge of the wicked and the Helper of the weak.