

The Attacked Man

Jesus in the Psalms

Psalm 62

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I. Dealing with Attacks (Mt 10:4 cf. Mk 14:44-45; Jn 6:64, 71; 10:4-6)

Throughout history, many have suffered attacks from those they believed were friends. King David did; he had his Judases. Consequently, he composed Psalm 62 to guide his heart and mind to respond rightly to their attacks.

II. The Attacked Man

A. Title and Setting (cf. 1 Chr 25:1)

This psalm was entrusted to the *Chief Musician* for the benefit of all God's people. It was delivered specifically to *Jeduthun*, one of those appointed by David to "*prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals*" (1 Chr 25:1).

B. 1st Stanza: Trusting the Lord and rebuking one's attackers (1-4)

¹Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation. ²He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved. ³How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, Like a leaning wall and a tottering fence. ⁴They only consult to cast him down from his high position; They delight in lies; They bless with their mouth, But they curse inwardly. *Selah*

David's confidence is that God will so work on his behalf that he will remain faithful to the Lord. To be "*shaken*" would be to cease trusting God and to trust in idols instead. David is confident, *because of God's grace and mercy*, that his faith will remain fixed on the Lord despite the attacks of evil men.

C. 2nd Stanza: Exhorting oneself and others to trust God's faithfulness (5-8)

⁵My soul, wait silently for God alone, For my expectation is from Him. ⁶He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved. ⁷In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God. ⁸Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. *Selah*

Whereas v. 1 is a *declaration of trust*, v. 5 is an *exhortation to trust*. David urges himself, "*_____ for the Lord.*" It is easy for us to move away from our trust in the Lord and so David exhorts himself not to do so.

D. 3rd Stanza: Contrasting man's vanity and God's reliability (9-12)

⁹Surely men of low degree are a vapor, Men of high degree are a lie; If they are weighed on the scales, They are altogether lighter than vapor. ¹⁰Do not trust in oppression, Nor vainly hope in robbery; If riches increase, Do not set your heart on them. ¹¹God has spoken once, Twice I have heard this: That power belongs to God. ¹²Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; For You render to each one according to his work.

David warns us lest we put our trust in _____ – either the common man or the lordly man – or in wickedness. When attacked, our temptation is to respond in kind, rather than to trust in the Lord. God rules among the affairs of men and He recompenses those who fear Him and those who despise Him. God's recompense is both an encouragement and a warning.

III. How ought we respond when attacked?

A. Beware the temptation to seek security in power & wealth (cf. 1 Tim 6:17-19)

Psalm 62 reminds us, as Allen Ross writes, that “*God alone is able to deliver the faithful from destructive enemies and make them safe and secure because he alone is both savior and judge*” (375). Yet, when we are attacked, our great temptation is to seek security in power and in wealth rather than in God.

“God’s people sing this psalm to foster confidence in his care, especially as they are faced with people who use power and wealth to oppress them. The strong temptation in such a case is either to despair or else to seek security in power and wealth rather than in God” (ESV Study Bible, 1011).

When Assyria was marching upon Jerusalem, many urged King Hezekiah to seek help from Egypt.

¹“Woe to the rebellious children,” says the LORD, “Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin; ²Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have not asked My advice, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt! ³Therefore the strength of Pharaoh Shall be your shame, And trust in the shadow of Egypt Shall be your humiliation. (Is 30:1-3)

When we place our trust in anything other than in God Himself, God has a way of bringing those things back around on us. What we _____ in, what we substitute for *God Himself*, shall become our *shame*. Remember the Apostle Paul’s exhortation to Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-19):

¹⁷Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. ¹⁸Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, ¹⁹storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Wealth itself is not a problem; it is a gift from God. But we must never put our trust in our wealth.

B. Wait silently for God alone (Pr 15:28; 16:32; 17:27; Jas 1:19)

So how ought we to respond when attacked? Wait silently for God alone. To *wait upon God* is the posture of faith, _____ (8a). So how does this *trust* reveal itself? First and foremost, in prayer: “*Pour out your heart before Him...*” (8b). When we are attacked unjustly, our first response should be to turn to God and pour out our complaint to Him.

And note that David urges us to wait _____. What does this mean? First, when we are *pouring out our heart to God*, we need to be prepared to *listen to God* in His Word and by His Spirit in our conscience. Second, to *wait silently* is to commit to self-control. “*He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city*” (Prov 16:32). When we are attacked, it is easy to respond hastily. “*He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit*” (Prov 17:27). To *wait silently* upon God is not to avoid acting; it is to act after having considered the matter: “*The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil*” (Prov 15:28).

C. Remind yourself and others of God’s reliability (Phil 4:6-7)

So why ought we be committed to *waiting silently upon God alone*? Because God is infinitely reliable. He is the _____ of all who trust Him. We can be patient, be of a calm spirit, knowing that God is reliable and on our side. To whom does _____ belong? To whom does _____ belong?

IV. Conclusion (Is 53:11-12)

¹¹He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. (Is 53:11-12)