

SBC – March 30, 2025
Psalm 64 (NKJV)
“Secret Plots – Sharp Tongues”

Psalm 64 (NKJV)
To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

This Psalm is designated “***To the Chief Musician,***” which is also translated as “***For the choir director.***” It is a Psalm of David.

This Psalm, as so many others, involved a time of crisis that made David cry out to the Lord. However, the exact occasion for this Psalm is unknown. However, the emphasis is on the tongue of the wicked and their murderous plotting against David.

Slide # 1

Psalm 64

“Secret Plots – Sharp Tongues”

- vv. 1-6 Secret Plotting of the Wicked
- vv. 7-9 Reciprocal Response of the LORD
- v. 10 Response of the Righteous

1 Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation; Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

David begins by asking God to “hear” which is a way of asking God to respond. Once again, he needs help. He needs divine intervention. Through the Psalms, we consistently find David in trouble and it drove him to God.

One of the “blessings” of desperate problems is that it forces us to rely upon God. Over and over, we see this reality in the life of David.

The word “meditation” can also be translated as “complaint” (cf. Ps. 55:2; 102:2; 142:2). As a complaint, he is crying to God to deal with these enemies. If you take it in the sense of “meditation,” then David contemplates their end, which is seen at the conclusion of the Psalm (cf. Ps. 73:17). So, a case can be made for either of these views.

David not only asked God to deliver him from the enemy but also to preserve him “from fear of the enemy”.

The word **fear** is commonly translated *dread* and speaks of something greater than the normal fear of battle. David knew how crippling this kind of *dread* could be and prayed to be kept from it.

-David Guzik

Fear can be a paralyzing reality.

The fear of the Lord mobilizes us, but the fear of man paralyzes us.

– Warren Wiersbe

Slide # 2

Proverbs 29:25 (NKJV)

25 The fear of man brings a snare, But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7), but at the same time, it is proper to pray for God to preserve us from crippling fear. We are all human. We need God's help every step of the way.

Slide # 3

Psalms 56:3 (NKJV)

3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

It is appropriate to ask God to help you not be afraid in situations that are, on the surface, very scary.

2 Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked, From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity,

David has three prayers here: 1) Hear me, 2) Preserve me, and 3) Hide me.

The "secret plots of the wicked" has been translated as "***the conspiracy of the wicked.***" These enemies were secretly plotting how they might take him out.

David wants God to provide cover for him. These people are wicked and rebellious. As "workers of iniquity," they work at sinful perversion.

3 Who sharpen their tongue like a sword, And bend their bows to shoot their arrows—bitter words,

Their secret plots involved slanderous words and lies against him, all intent on taking him out like an arrow might take out prey. They shoot “bitter words,” that is, cruel, harmful, destructive words.

This was not a case of words merely hurting; this was an active conspiracy to kill. – **David Guzik**

4 That they may shoot in secret at the blameless; Suddenly they shoot at him and do not fear.

They shoot off their mouth in secret! They do it “anonymously” behind the scenes in a hidden way, instead of to his face.

A preacher had on his desk a special book labeled “Complaints of members against one another.” When one of his people called to tell him the faults of another, he would say, “Well, here’s my complaint book. I’ll write down what you say, and you can sign it. Then, when I have to take up the matter officially, I shall know what I may expect you to testify to.” The sight of the open book and the ready pen had its effect: “Oh, no I couldn’t sign anything like that!” and no entry was made. The preacher said he kept the book for forty years, opened it probably a thousand times, and never wrote a line in it.

Cowards shoot in secret! So do the wicked! They shoot in secret at the blameless who don’t even have a chance to defend themselves.

There is no grounds for what they are saying. It is pure slander. In secret, they shoot at the blameless.

Slide # 4

“An open liar is an angel compared with this demon. Vipers and cobras are harmless and amiable creatures compared with such a reptile. The devil himself might blush at being the father of so base an offspring.” - **Charles Spurgeon**

Suddenly, they shoot off their mouth. Suddenly is the idea of “unexpectedly” or “without warning”. These people are like “hit men” who attack in an unexpected manner under the cover of secrecy.

They plot in secret, they shoot their mouths in secret, and they attack suddenly.

They are really “verbal snipers” trying to take out David when he is vulnerable and has no way to defend himself. They don’t play fair at all.

5 They encourage themselves in an evil matter; They talk of laying snares secretly; They say, “Who will see them?”

There is camaraderie amongst these wicked people. They spur each other on in their wicked endeavors. They discuss their plans for laying secret snares, and they say, “Who will see?”

Their actions show they have no fear of God. They have no fear of consequences. They really think that they are going to get away with this and that no one is going to hold them accountable. They think because it is done “secretly” that no one sees.

It is like the criminal who looked north, looked south, looked east, and looked west. And since no one was looking, he thought he would get away with his criminal activity. Only one problem – he forgot to look up!

Those who say, “Who will see?” have forgotten about God.

6 They devise iniquities: “We have perfected a shrewd scheme.” Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep.

Iniquities refer to actions that are morally wrong, unjust, or wicked. These are wicked plans. And they are very cock sure of themselves boasting that they have “perfected a shrewd scheme.” They think that they have perfected a secret plan.

As an unbeliever, I remember thinking about how I could potentially pull off the perfect crime in which no one would ever know about it. Oh, the depravity of the heart that is so small-minded.

And then David adds this commentary: “Both the inward thought and that heart of man are deep.” What he means by this is that depravity is mysteriously deep.

Their boasting of their evil scheming shows the dark depths of their thought and heart.

Slide # 5

Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)

9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?

Ecclesiastes 9:3 (NKJV)

3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

The true depths of our depravity is known only by God. I don't think we ever see the full sinfulness of our hearts!

“The Hebrew literally speaks of men's hearts as being ‘deep,’ the idea being that they are almost bottomless in their supply of evil deeds and cunning.” - **James Montgomery Boice**

Slide # 6

Psalms 19:12 (NKJV)

12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults.

But sometimes we get a glimpse into really raw depravity and we say with David, “Both the inward thought and the heart of man are deep.” That is DEEP with depravity.

Before the Flood the divine commentary on humanity was this:

Slide # 7

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 8:21 (NKJV)

21 And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although **the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth**; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

The FLOOD did not change the depravity of man. The only cure for a depraved heart is Jesus – is regeneration through faith in Jesus! Only God can change people from the inside out.

And the point of this Psalm is that a prominent way in which depravity is displayed is through the MOUTH. These people plot in secret, they sharpen their tongues like a sword, they shoot their words in secret and unexpectedly. They converse among themselves about how no one will see. Their mouths tell on their depravity – all the while thinking they will get away with it.

BUT GOD...

7 But God shall shoot at them with an arrow; Suddenly they shall be wounded.

Here is the problem! Depravity doesn’t factor in God!

Romans 3:18 (NKJV)

18 “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”

The wicked don’t factor in God, but David did! He believes that God will intervene.

They shoot their wicked words at David, but God will shoot at them. And God is a very good shot! He never misses.

SUDDENLY, they shall be wounded! Suddenly, they are hit! Just that quick, everything changes. Just that quick they go from being those “who do not fear” (v. 4) and saying, “Who will see?” to being WOUNDED by God’s arrow!

Suddenly they shall be wounded reminds us that often the judgment of God comes upon the wicked unexpectedly, without any warning. They think everything is fine until they are **wounded**.

- **David Guzik**

The arrows of God, as OT history demonstrates, include natural judgments such as deadly disease, defeat, and calamity.

– **John MacArthur**

God has a large array of arrows! He is sovereign over all and can wound in a wide assortment of ways.

“The brevity of God’s countermeasures, after the elaborate scheming of the wicked, tells its own decisive tale.” - **Derek Kidner**

The wicked spend all this time plotting and scheming – only to SUDDENLY have God bring them down! All God needs to do is let His arrow fly! (cf. Ps. 7:11-12).

8 So He will make them stumble over their own tongue; All who see them shall flee away.

Here, the emphasis is on God’s providential workings. God is going to work in such a way that their own words come back on them, and in this, they will be exposed before all, causing people to flee from them.

God has a way of providentially bringing back on the wicked their own wicked ways. Thus, they reap in kind what they have sown.

Slide # 8

Psalm 7:15–16 (NKJV)

15 He made a pit and dug it out, And has fallen into the ditch which he made.

16 His trouble shall return upon his own head, And his violent dealing shall come down on his own crown.

David’s enemies shot arrows at him, but God suddenly shot His arrows at them. David’s enemies sought to try to trip him up, but God causes them to stumble and fall.

They might try and mess with David, but the God factor makes all the difference. This was David’s testimony.

And when God intervenes in this way, it will serve as a LESSON for all those who see it.

9 All men shall fear, And shall declare the work of God; For they shall wisely consider His doing.

People are going to learn through this to FEAR (reverence) God!

They will openly declare that this has been the interviewing work of God and ponder these things. This will serve as “Theology 101”.

David was anticipating God’s interviewing work that turns the slanderous words of his enemies on their head.

He didn’t say exactly HOW God would do it but he believed it would happen.

And it would happen in such a way that David would be vindicated and God would be glorified before all who were watching.

Previously the wicked asked, “Who will see them?” ([Psalm 64:5](#)). The answer is, *everyone will see them*, because God will use them to teach a lesson to **all men**. – **David Guzik**

10 The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and trust in Him. And all the upright in heart shall glory.

The righteous are God’s people – those who were aligned with God’s man David. Who one stands with is telling!

When God turns the tables on the wicked and causes them to be exposed in their sinful lies and plotting, then the righteous will be glad.

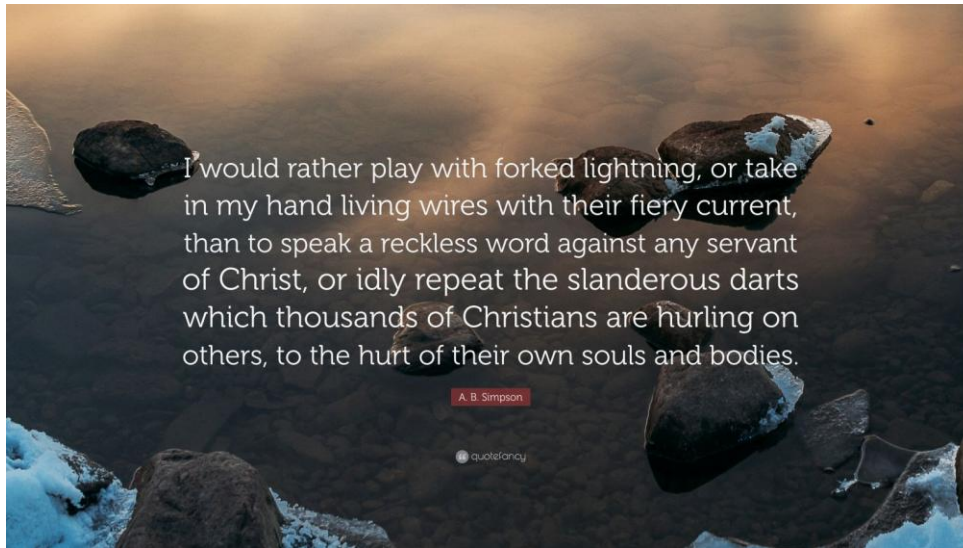
It will serve to further strengthen their trust in the LORD!

All the upright in heart would glory in the Lord, that is celebrate the victory that He has given!

This Psalm highlights the tongue and how the wicked use their tongues to try and take down God’s people.

That is a really serious matter.

Slide # 9



The tongue is reflective of the heart. How one speaks in reference to God's people is telling!

Slide # 10

Matthew 12:35–37 (NKJV)

35 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

36 But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.

37 For **by your words you will be justified**, and **by your words you will be condemned.**"

Words are telling!

May our hearts be right, which is reflected in how we speak.

As Jesus said, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks." (Mt. 12:34)

No matter what the wicked say, in the end, the righteous will celebrate because God always has the LAST WORD!

Long-time pastor and Bible teacher J. Vernon McGee often said that he had learned to give verbal assassins over to God, for He could deal with them far better than he could. That is good counsel!

Indeed, "all the upright in heart shall glory." We shall forever celebrate our God and what He has done for us!