

Psalm 5

How to Deal with Lies and Slander, Psalm 5:1-12

Psalm 5:1-12 (NKJV)

¹ Give ear to my words, O Lord, Consider my meditation.

² Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray.

³ My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct *it* to You, And I will look up.

⁴ For You *are* not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.

⁵ The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.

⁶ You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

⁷ But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

⁸ Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face.

⁹ For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part *is* destruction; Their throat *is* an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰ Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You.

¹¹ But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.

¹² For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

Theological Introduction

Psalm 5 teaches one of the most practical doctrines in all of Scripture: **God Himself is the righteous Judge who hears the cries of His people when they are wounded by lies, slander, deception, and malicious speech.** While the world teaches us to retaliate, defend our reputation at all costs, or seek revenge, David directs our eyes to heaven. He does not begin with his enemies; he begins with God.

This psalm reminds us that the greatest issue is not merely that people have lied about David—it is that **their lies are an offense against the holy character of**

God. Falsehood originates with Satan, “**a liar and the father of it**” (**John 8:44**), while truth originates with God, who “**cannot lie**” (**Titus 1:2**).

John 8:44 NKJV

⁴⁴ **You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.**

Titus 1:2 NKJV

² **In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.**

Therefore, every lie is ultimately an assault upon God’s truthfulness and righteousness. David also teaches that **the believer’s greatest refuge is not self-vindication but divine vindication**. He refuses to become like his enemies. Instead of taking justice into his own hands, he commits his cause to the Lord, who sees every hidden motive, hears every whispered accusation, and will judge every careless word (**Matthew 12:36-37**).

Matthew 12:36-37 NKJV

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.”**

This reflects the very heart of the Gospel. Jesus Christ Himself endured the greatest slander in history. He was falsely accused of blasphemy, demon possession, insurrection, and treason, yet “**when He was reviled, did not revile in return... but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously**” (**1 Peter 2:23**).

1 Peter 2:23 NKJV

²³ **Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously.**

David’s experience therefore points beyond itself to the suffering Messiah, whose perfect trust in the Father became the pattern for every believer.

Psalm 5 also reveals an important theological contrast. The wicked are characterized by deceit, flattery, and destruction (**vv. 4-10**).

Psalm 5:4-10 (NKJV)

⁴ **For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.**

⁵ The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity.

⁶ You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.

⁷ But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

⁸ Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face.

⁹ For *there is* no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.

¹⁰ Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You.

While God's people are characterized by prayer, worship, trust, righteousness, and joy (**vv. 1-3, 7-12**).

Psalm 5:1-3 (NKJV)

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² Give heed to the voice of my cry, My King and my God, For to You I will pray.

³ My voice You shall hear in the morning, O Lord; In the morning I will direct *it* to You, And I will look up.

Psalm 5:7-12 (NKJV)

⁷ But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

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¹² For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

Two kingdoms stand in opposition: the kingdom of darkness, where lies are weapons, and the kingdom of God, where truth reigns. The Christian's response must therefore be radically different from the world's response. Rather than

seeking revenge, we seek God. Rather than protecting our reputation above all else, we entrust our reputation to the righteous Judge. Rather than becoming bitter, we continue worshiping, praying, and rejoicing because our Defender never fails.

Ultimately, **Psalm 5** reminds us that **truth always belongs to God, judgment always belongs to God, and vindication always comes from God.**

Modern-Day Introduction

Never in human history have lies traveled faster than they do today. Through social media, text messages, emails, podcasts, news outlets, and online platforms, a false accusation can circle the globe in minutes while the truth struggles to catch up. Entire reputations have been destroyed by rumors that were never verified. Churches have been divided by whispered conversations. Families have been fractured by half-truths. Businesses have collapsed because of false allegations. Friendships have ended because someone chose to believe gossip instead of pursuing truth.

One of the most painful experiences in life is discovering that someone has lied about you. It becomes even more painful when the people who hear the lie never ask whether it is true. Once words leave the mouth, they cannot be retrieved. Even after the lie is exposed, its damage often remains.

When we are slandered, our natural instinct is to defend ourselves, retaliate, expose our enemies, or attempt to correct every false statement. Yet we quickly discover that we cannot chase every rumor or answer every accusation. There will always be conversations we never hear, people we never meet, and lies we never know were spoken.

David understood this painful reality. His enemies sought to destroy him not only with swords but with words. They weaponized deception, flattery, and falsehood. Yet instead of becoming consumed with defending his own reputation, David lifted his eyes to heaven.

Psalm 5 teaches believers that our first response to slander is not social media, public retaliation, or personal vengeance. Our first response is prayer. Our confidence is not that everyone will eventually believe us, but that God already knows the truth. We may not be able to control what others say about us, but we can trust the One who hears every word, judges every motive, and promises to surround His people **“with favor... as with a shield” (Psalm 5:12)**.

Psalm 5:12 (NKJV)

¹² For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as *with* a shield.

The world says, “Protect your reputation at any cost.” Scripture says, “Entrust your reputation to the righteous Judge.”

That is the timeless message of **Psalm 5**.

Three Biblical Illustrations

1. Joseph—Slandered by Potiphar’s Wife (Genesis 39)

Joseph was a man of integrity, yet he was falsely accused of attempted assault after refusing Potiphar’s wife’s advances. Without a fair hearing, he was thrown into prison. Joseph could not clear his own name, but God vindicated him in His perfect time by raising him from prison to become governor of Egypt.

Lesson: God often vindicates His servants without requiring them to vindicate themselves.

2. David—Slandered by King Saul (1 Samuel 24; 26)

Saul repeatedly accused David of conspiracy and rebellion, even though David remained loyal. David had opportunities to kill Saul and clear his own path to the throne, but he refused to take vengeance into his own hands.

1 Samuel 24:12 NKJV

¹² Let the Lord judge between you and me, and let the Lord avenge me on you. But my hand shall not be against you.

Lesson: The righteous leave judgment in God’s hands rather than seeking personal revenge.

3. Jesus Christ—The Greatest Victim of False Accusation (Matthew 26–27)

False witnesses accused Jesus of blasphemy, sedition, and threatening the temple. Though completely innocent, He remained silent before His accusers and entrusted Himself to the Father.

1 Peter 2:23 NKJV

²³ Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously.

Lesson: Christ demonstrates the perfect response to slander—trusting the Father instead of retaliating.

Three Modern-Day Illustrations

1. The Workplace

An employee is falsely blamed for a costly mistake made by someone else. Rumors spread throughout the office, promotions are delayed, and trust is damaged. Though unable to control what others believe, the Christian continues working faithfully, praying for wisdom and trusting God to reveal the truth in His timing.

Lesson: Integrity before God is more valuable than immediate vindication before people.

2. The Church

A faithful church member or pastor becomes the subject of gossip. Half-truths circulate through conversations, text messages, and social media. Instead of responding with bitterness or launching a campaign of self-defense, he continues serving, praying, preaching, and trusting the Lord to defend His servant.

Lesson: God's approval matters more than public opinion.

3. The Family

A family member spreads false stories during a conflict, causing relatives to take sides. Holidays become strained, friendships suffer, and years of trust seem lost. Although deeply wounded, the believer refuses to repay evil for evil. He prays for those who have wronged him, speaks truth in love when appropriate, and leaves ultimate justice to God.

Lesson: Peace is often preserved not by winning every argument, but by trusting the righteous Judge.

Psalm 5 teaches that lies and slander are among Satan's oldest weapons, but they are never beyond God's sovereign control. When our reputation is attacked, our peace does not depend on convincing everyone of our innocence. Our peace rests in the certainty that **God hears our prayers, hates falsehood, guides the righteous, judges the wicked, and surrounds those who trust Him with His favor as with a shield.** From this foundation, David unfolds four timeless principles for dealing with lies and slander:

1. Turn to the Lord for help (**yv. 1-3**).
2. Confess God's holiness: five facts (**yv. 4-6**).
3. Make a renewed commitment to faithful prayer and worship (**y. 7**).
4. Pray for three major things (**yv. 8-12**).