

Psalm 70

*Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; *
O Lord, make haste to help me.*

*Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.*

*Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.*

*Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the Lord!"*

*But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.*

*You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.*

You know, I think that we have a great deal in common with King David, at least the King David that we hear from in our Psalm this morning.

Do you ever get the feeling that things in our world are way out of control? Evil is on the loose and at hand. I know, I have asked something like this in one way or another in many recent sermons. After Emanuel AME. After Las Vegas. After Charlottesville. Various night club mass shootings. A Home Depot truck on a NYC bike path. And last Sunday in a church in Sutherland Springs Baptist Church.

After all these tragic events, all these attacks that leave us scared and hurt and angry, all this evil and illness, the question that I hear most is, "What should we do?" The world is falling down around our heads. How should we react? Ban guns? Arm everyone? Punish the perpetrators along with anyone and everyone even remotely connected to them? Find someone or some group you dislike and find a way to make it their fault?

I get it. I really do. People are scared, and hurt, and angry. Mostly scared, severely hurt, and eventually all angry. That is what seems to happen when there are forces at play that are

Let those who seek my life be ashamed
and altogether dismayed; *
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune
draw back and be disgraced.

Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, *
because they are ashamed.

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; *
let those who love your salvation say for ever,
"Great is the Lord!"

But as for me, I am poor and needy; *
come to me speedily, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; *
O Lord, do not tarry.

And in his Psalm, he showed us the path forward for our day. Lord, God, deliver us, help us, protect us, and, if you don't mind too much, Hurry Up!

To those who are in our world today who are bent on destroying lives, physically, emotionally, and spiritually, disclose to them your way and your truth and lead them to feel appropriately ashamed. And while they are coming to the eventual revelation that will break their hearts because they are not on the path you would have them on, confuse them and block them until you can heal us all.

And as you heal them, and us, and as you heal your world, help those of us who know your salvation and know your ultimate power and embrace your eternal plan for all people, help us find life in the words that should always be on our lips, "Great is the Lord!"

Do you know how things ended between David and Saul? Well, God did eventually deliver Saul into David's hands. Saul was searching high and low for David in the wilderness and, as he did, nature called. He went to find a private place to take care of his bodily business and he chose a particular, remote cave that seemed to serve the purpose well. Little did he know that deep in that cave David was hiding with all his men. In that cave, David's men pleaded with David. Go and end it. Saul has been delivered into your hands. Kill him! End this.

And so, as Saul took care of his business, David snuck up and at just the right moment, he reach forward with his blade ...and simply and secretly cut off a piece of Saul robe. And then, as Saul was leaving the cave, unaware of what just happened, David called out to him. He showed him the cutting and explained that, if he had wanted Saul's death like Saul thought he did, he would have had it. But David was a man after God's own heart. David was a man who sought God's best plan instead of his personal convenience. David was a man who trusted God's loving promise over his temporary solutions. David was a man who chose God's sometimes