

A Cry for Justice

Scripture Reading — Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we re-membered Zion. — Psalm 137:1

The words of this psalm startle us; they throb with anger and grief.

God's people have been taken captive and deported far away from home. And now their captors want them to sing? "Yes, we'll sing you a song. Listen to this one!" And they sing a psalm that no one would want to hear.

The captives' cry for justice is troubling—surely innocent children should not have to pay with their lives for what a king and an army have done!

Perhaps we are troubled by this psalm because it is so honest. There are times we may feel just as angry and -eager for vengeance and justice. Perhaps voicing such thoughts and -wishes in honest prayer is just what God wants us to do. Perhaps, then, God can remind us that we should love our ene-mies and pray for those who hate us. Perhaps praying such a prayer helps us turn our grief over to God.

Such a prayer reminds us that it is God to whom we must turn in such a season; it is God who ultimately decides who is punished and how. It is God whose will is done, "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Psalm 137 reminds us that God wants us to bring our every thought to him in prayer. Have you shared even your most vengeful thoughts with God?

Prayer

O God, sometimes our grief and anger rage out of control. Remind us that you want to hear all our prayers—even the ugly ones. Your will be done. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Printed on August 8, 2020

