

Meditation 18: Psalms 35 & 36: "The Lord Hears Our Complaint"

"Do not let those who are wrongfully my enemies rejoice over me; Nor let those who hate me without cause wink maliciously...Do not let them say in their heart, 'Aha...that's what we want!' Do not let them say in their heart 'We have swallowed him up!'" Psalm 35:19, 20, 25

"O continue Your loving kindness to those who know You, And Your righteousness to the upright in heart. Let not the foot of pride come upon me, and let not the hand of the wicked drive me away." Psalm 36:10, 11

In Psalm 35 we meet a man who is suffering because people he cared for and sought to bless had turned against him. He had done much good for them when they needed help but when troubles came his way – they were nowhere to be found. Not only did they refuse to help him, they even spoke against him and laughed about his problems. This wounded the writer's heart and caused him to become angry and discouraged. He prayed to God, asking the LORD to stand up for him and show those people how wrong they were to repay good with evil and to rejoice over his misfortune. Then having prayed his heart out to God, he left it all in the hands of the LORD.

Psalm 36 reveals a less emotional and calmer perspective regarding those who would do wrong to the Psalmist. This time he does not seem so hurt by those kind of people. Instead of focusing upon disappointing human beings, the writer's focus is upon God's loving kindness and power to help those who turn to him in time of trouble. This is a song of praise; all the Psalmist asks of God is that those bad actors in his life not be allowed to drag him down and cause him to be a spiritual failure.

Prayer: "Lord, when people wrong me without reason and treat me unfairly, do not let them bring me down. Cause me to look to you for justice and wait upon you to act on my behalf. Amen."