



*The Psalms:*  
SONGS TO KEEP YOUR LIFE IN TUNE

How the  
**Redeemed**  
Should Respond  
to Ruthlessness  
Psalm 109

MESSAGE GUIDE  
AUGUST 30, 2020



# How the Redeemed Should Respond to Ruthlessness

Today's Message (30 August 2020) / *Psalm 109*

TRUE SONS  
OF GOD  
ARE OFTEN  
QUICKER  
TO FORGIVE  
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OTHERS ARE  
ABLE TO  
REPENT.

If any psalm has gotten “bad press” in the Bible, this is it. A question always asked of it is, “doesn’t PSALM 109 depart from the spirit and ideals of the “love your enemies” command of Jesus?” No, it does not. But you must think about this psalm deeply to understand why.

So what do you do when people intentionally and unfairly make life hard for you?

## 1. TELL GOD WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING, INCLUDING YOUR ROLE IN IT (vv. 1-5)

- The psalmist’s source of pain: a hate group that he had not hated. They were ruthless, relentless, and dishonest. You can’t have a worse group against yourself.
- What pained David most is that he had loved them, and they reciprocated with hatred.
- When people treat you like they treated David, look at your possible contribution to the situation, and make amends the best you can. If you already did, or are totally innocent, do what David did: tell God everything, details included. You are guaranteed to have His ears, the attention of the best Listener in the universe.

## 2. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO TO OTHERS WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO YOU (vv. 6-20)

- This is the prophetic section of PSALM 109. ACTS 1:16-20 verifies that this section applied to Judas as judgment for choosing to betray Jesus Christ. Like in many other psalms, David’s experience foreshadowed that of Jesus.
- However we can’t deny these were David’s feelings in his time. Here are three ways to understand this portion:
  1. The Law of Moses decreed that a false accuser was to be given the punishment he wanted for the accused (DEUTERONOMY 19:16-21). David possibly had this in mind. So his words are not evil wishes, but a call for justice according to the Law.

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2. David is not vengeful in actions. His response is to bring it to God in prayer and to leave it there – a great example of ROMANS 12:19. His way is better than taking matters in our own hands and ruthless vindictiveness. But caution is needed and aligns with the warning that even “righteous anger” is close neighbor to sin (EPHESIANS 4:26).
  3. Finally, is it possible that imprecatory psalms are not for most believers to claim, not because these psalms have a lower standard of holiness, but because they are too lofty for us to imitate without danger?
- What was really the fault of David's enemy? Verse 16 “he did not remember to show kindness, but pursued the poor and needy and the brokenhearted, to put them to death.” Don't keep breaking the broken. You may just find yourself on the receiving end one day, when a perfect Judge who never errs takes up their cause. He always does.
3. PRAY PURPOSEFULLY WHEN THE OPPRESSION PERSISTS (vv. 21-31)
- Anchor the hope and passion of your prayer on the unchanging Character of God (VV. 21, 26).
  - Tell God what He already knows: All the consequences of your maltreatment – the emotional trauma, physical distress, social ostracism, public humiliation, and more (VV. 22-29). Far better to vent than to be vindictive!
  - Worship God more than ever. Then stand firm, and see the salvation of the Lord (VV. 30-31; EXODUS 14:13-14)

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Human relationships will constantly break your heart unless you can accept these two realities: True sons of God are often more willing to forgive than others are willing to stop. True sons of God are often quicker to forgive than others are able to repent.

So make this prayer your own: “But you, O GOD my Lord, deal [*kindly*] on my behalf for Your Name's sake; because Your steadfast love is good, deliver me!” (PSALM 109:21)

*Lord help me simply accept that the enemy may never stop. But neither will you.*

*You will never stop being on my side. You will always be for me, never against me.*

*And nothing can ever separate me from your love. In this I find my hope. In this I rest.*

*Though Jesus Christ, I humbly give thanks, and worship You. Amen ■*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does Psalm 109 give us an excuse to keep hating our enemies? Explain your answer.
2. Why is it true that even “righteous anger” hovers dangerously close to sin (Ephesians 4:26)? How can you avoid going there?
3. Pray together as a group/family, and ask God to help you release your anger towards people, to God in prayer instead, then to help you love the unlovable. Only divine grace can help you do so.



# The Shepherd's Voice

by Pastor JP Kabuhat

"I feel lost on how to lead." These are real words of real leaders who have felt the strain of the pandemic, leaders who have big hearts for the lives of the youth but are also struggling at this time.

Lay-offs, isolation, uncertainty, depression — these are among the weights in a YGroup leader's heart while leading discipleship groups in this new normal. Nevertheless, they consistently muster up the courage to turn on their devices and start online video calls to minister to their YGroups.

We heard their hearts, and we responded with the leading of the Lord.

Our first online leaders gathering happened last August 1, 2020. Games were played, faces of laughter lit up the screens, and meaningful stories were exchanged as we shared our vision to be more intentional with our leaders during these unprecedented times. Each one was refreshed and encouraged.

While the need of each youth to belong to a YGroup is important, the shepherding of each leader is just as important. #ChurchConnected, our recent catchphrase in YouthLIVE, captures what we desire within the YGroups and among the YGroup leaders. Our online gathering for leaders reminds them that though we all have struggles, we can choose to stay connected and journey together. We desire that our family does not leave anyone behind. This is our battle cry amid the difficult season. We do this together.



Imagine with us the difference if these leaders look beyond the here and now, setting their minds on things that are eternal! These people are our country's future for the next 10 or so years, and they too will lead those who will follow soon after them.

Would you join us in prayer as we seek the Lord's guidance and strength for each leader? Pray with us as we call upon God to continually raise leaders whose lives are witnesses, with a clear vision of transforming the communities they are in because of the work of the Lord being done in them and through them!

*"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity"—1 TIMOTHY 4:12 ■*

# THE CHURCH ONLINE

## **BELONGING: THE JOURNEY OF A SMALL GROUP LEADER**

September 2 (Wed), 6:30 p.m., on GCF Facebook Page

## **REMINDERS OF GOD'S CARE AND FAITHFULNESS**

Mondays and Fridays, 7:00 p.m., GCF Facebook Page

## **LIVestream (GCF Youth LIVE Worship)**

Saturdays, 5:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfyouthlive

## **KIDS' L.I.F.E. ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Uploaded every Sunday, 1:00 p.m. on youtube.com/user/gcfmain

# WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

For offerings during this time, please consider the following options:

## **BANK DEPOSIT OR TRANSFER**

Account Name: Greenhills Christian Fellowship, Inc.

- **BDO** (BDO Corporate Center Branch) • **GCash (L) and PayMaya (R)**  
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- **China Bank** (Ortigas ADB Branch)  
Savings Account 1112-02006218
- **UnionBank** (UB Plaza Branch)  
Checking Account 0005-9001-0426
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Savings Account 1000-3010-0017-355
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Savings Account 629-3-62919733-9



## **CREDIT/DEBIT CARD THROUGH PAYPAL**

Please visit [www.gcf.org.ph/give](http://www.gcf.org.ph/give) for instructions.

Please email a copy of your transaction document to [finance@gcf.org.ph](mailto:finance@gcf.org.ph) so your giving can be properly recorded and an official receipt can be sent to you.

## **COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE EFFORTS**

You may also designate your giving to our church's efforts to help frontliners and the vulnerable. Just indicate "For COVID-19 fund" when you email your transaction document ■



**Greenhills Christian Fellowship**

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1354 to 56, (02) 8635 0078 to 80, (02) 8635 0082 to 83

☎ Fax No. (02) 8632 1357, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

✉ [email@gcf.org.ph](mailto:email@gcf.org.ph) 🌐 [gcf.org.ph](http://gcf.org.ph) 📱 Greenhills Christian Fellowship