

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 64 TITLE: "Swords & Arrows"

**Thesis:** "Those who desire justice will see it come from God"

- 1 **Hear my voice**, O God, in my **complaint**,  
preserve my life from dread of the enemy.
- 2 Hide me from the secret plots of the wicked,  
from the throng of evildoers,
- 3 who **whet** their tongues like **swords**,  
who aim bitter words like **arrows**,
- 4 shooting from ambush at the blameless,  
shooting at him suddenly and without fear.
- 5 They hold fast to their evil purpose;  
they talk of laying snares secretly,  
thinking, "Who can see them?"
- 6 They **search out injustice**,  
saying, "We have accomplished a diligent search."  
For the **inward mind and heart of a man are deep.** (Gen.6:5; 8:21)
  
- 7 **But God** shoots **his arrow** at them;  
they are wounded suddenly.
- 8 They are brought to ruin, **with their own tongues turned against them;** (Rom.2)  
all who see them will wag their heads.
- 9 Then all mankind fears;  
they tell **what God has brought about**  
and **ponder what he has done.**
  
- 10 Let the **righteous** one **rejoice** in the Lord  
and take refuge in him!  
Let all the **upright** in heart **exult!**

**INTRO: NEWS.** We crave justice. Desire it. Want it. Ache for it. Hate injustice. Angry. Good. Love. Mercy. Philadelphia (3+11); Maryland (3); Uvalde; Ukraine; Nigeria; Buffalo; Germany; etc.

**Mirslov Volf.** - Croatia Theologian & Philosopher.

**I. Under Attack (Injustice)**

- A. You can take your **complaints** to God too.
- B. **Preserve.** Protection. "Deliver us from evil."
- C. **Swords.** Whet/Sharpen tongues.
- D. **Arrows. Bitter** = "Poison." Words.

**ILLUSTRATION: 2 Sam.16:5-14.** David experienced this. What if this is meant to be for our good. **Cut off his head!**

- E. Rom. 1:30. They plan evil. Invent ways.
- F. **JESUS.** Wrongly reviled without shame.

**APPLICATION: Opportunity to grow?** "Thank you for this opportunity to become more patient & merciful." Like Jesus.

**II. God is our Helper (Justice)**

- A. **BUT God shoots His Arrows.** Perfect aim. Always hits his target. Never misses. Ps. 7:12-17.
  1. Thru **Conviction.** Pierces the heart. Cut heart.

**ILLUSTRATION: Pastor.** "Talks to everybody like their dumb." 10 years later. Convicted. Pierced his heart. Hurt. Joy

**ILLUSTRATION: Preachers.** Instead of killing/converted.

2. Thru **Judgment/Punishment.** Justice. He will. You want that, but you don't want to be receiving that. "Only God can judge me." You don't want it!

B. James 3:3-10. Tongue is a dangerous weapon.

C. 1 Peter 2:21-23; Trust God's Justice.

D. 1 Peter 3:8-9. Instead bless. **WHAT?! Kidding me!**

**APPLICATION:** God's justice toward sin. **JESUS.**

**III. Rejoice in the LORD!**

- A. Those who are **Righteous.** No one is righteous.
- B. **Justification.** Counted Righteousness. **JESUS.**
- C. Rom. 3:11-26. 5:1. 8:1. We needed that.
- D. Rom. 5:17-21. 1 John 1:9. 2 Cor. 5:21.
- E. Gal. 2:15-21. 3:7-11; 23-24.
- F. **Rejoice & Exult! Victory!** 1 Cor.15:56-57.

**ILLUSTRATION: Tension. 11-0.** Gone. KC tied in 9th.

Looked like they were done. Fans disappointed. Sad. Angry.

**9/4/02: Scott Hatteberg** hit a pinch-hit, walk-off home run.

Oakland A's 20 game winning streak! Erupted. Screams.

Jumping. Yells. Announcer. **Exulting!**

**APPLICATION: 1) Exult.** And we're gonna do that one day. After all the suffering. All the disappointments. All the struggle. Hardships. We'll exult.

**2) Justified.** You don't have to defend yourself. Nothing to prove. You're free. Not impress. "Inner Attorney." Cooking. Late. Screen time. Parenting. School. Garden. Life. Diet. Busy. Hair. Stories. Past experiences/sports/abilities/skills.

**Croatian theologian Miroslav Volf wrote in his book *Free of Charge*:**

*"I used to think that wrath was unworthy of God. Isn't God love? Shouldn't divine love be beyond wrath? God is love, and God loves every person and every creature. That's exactly why God is wrathful against some of them. My last resistance to the idea of God's wrath was a casualty of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the region from which I come. According to some estimates, 200,000 people were killed and over 3,000,000 were displaced. My villages and cities were destroyed, my people shelled day in and day out, some of them brutalized beyond imagination, and I could not imagine God not being angry. Or think of Rwanda in the last decade of the past century, where 800,000 people were hacked to death in one hundred days! How did God react to the carnage? By doting on the perpetrators in a grandparently fashion? By refusing to condemn the bloodbath but instead affirming the perpetrators' basic goodness? Wasn't God fiercely angry with them? Though I used to complain about the indecency of the idea of God's wrath, I came to think that I would have to rebel against a God who wasn't wrathful at the sight of the world's evil. God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love."*

**CS LEWIS: *Judgment in Psalms***

*"we are all in the same boat. We must all pi our hopes on the mercy of God and work of Christ, not on our own goodness."*