Main Thought – David (Christ) cries to God for HELP, VINDICATION, and GOD’S HONOR.

INTRODUCTION – This is a messianic and an imprecatory (curse, disaster) psalm. It is the third (22 – first, 110 – second) most quoted psalm in the NT.

A CRY FOR HELP (1-18).

• FOR HIS OWN SAKE (1-5). David is about to lose his voice from crying out to God for deliverance. He is SINKING fast (40:1-2; Jer. 38:6).
  - There is no basis for their accusations – I am innocent (Job 34:5; Jesus – Isa. 53:9). Jesus quoted verse 4 in his Upper Room Discourse (John 15:25).
• FOR THE LORD’S SAKE (6-12). Though David acknowledges his imperfections – the folly of his sin (5, 26), he is concerned about the Lord’s reputation and that enemies would not gloat (Matt. 6:9).
  - It got so bad that even David’s family did not believe in him just like Jesus (John 7:5).
  - David’s ZEAL for God’s house consumed him as it did Jesus (John 2:17).
  - Those who insulted God now did the same to David and Jesus (Matt. 27:39-44; Rom. 15:3).
• FOR THE CHARACTER OF GOD’S SAKE (13-18). David pleads his case upon God’s great love for him (Ex. 34:6-7). ANSWER, RESCUE, DELIVER, COME NEAR, REDEEM ME because of your goodness, love, and great mercy to me.

A CRY FOR VINDICATION (19-29).

• Here is where David lists the reasons for God to pour out his wrath on his enemies and not save them – an IMPRECATORY (cursing) prayer.
• David lists his enemies sins. They are acidic and toxic toward me with their gall and vinegar. They offered these to Jesus (Matt. 27:34, 48).
• Their TABLE was a pact against the righteous and God – may it become gall and vinegar to them and backfire against them (Rom. 11:9-10; 1 Thess. 5:3).
• David prays that they would be destroyed in God’s fierce anger – that their place would be deserted like Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:20).

Is it ever right to pray for the destruction of one’s enemies (Psa. 58:8) in light of NT teaching to pray for and love your enemy (Matt. 5:44; Luke 10:27; Rom. 12:14)? While difficult – yes (Eccles. 3:8). Paul did (1 Cor. 16:22; Gal. 1:8-9).

A CRY FOR HIS HONOR (30-36). After God has delivered you from peril, it is time to praise him and pray for a wonderful future. Our song of praise is more wonderful than any sacrifice you could offer God.