

“Then I will rejoice in the Lord. I will be glad because he rescues me. With every bone in my body I will praise him: “ Lord, who can compare with you? Who else rescues the helpless from the strong? Who else protects the helpless and poor from those who rob them?” Psalms 35:9-10 NLT

## lectio // Psalm 35:1-10

David declares a common theme of his in this passage, “God rescue me!” However, at the end of 10 he asks two overarching questions that describe the basis for victim’s rights, “Who else?” Great question! In our humanness, our systems and judges are prone to manipulation, mistakes, and even bribery. In our modern world there are activists and attorneys who can make a convincing and compelling case to flip justice to make the victim look like the perpetrator, the innocent quickly seen as the bully and the sociopathic double murderer look like they have been misunderstood, or had a hard life therefore should be exonerated from punishment. In our system of justice, juries buy it, Judges believe in multiple chances of change and release the violence back onto the street. It happens. Yet, David’s question brings me back to true justice, who rescues, who protects? God does. And, his justice hunts down evil much more effectively than the law. Media can spin innocence and mother’s can weep for their children on camera, but God knows the evil in human hearts and will defend the poor and helpless.

## oratio

Dad,

I see sweet little innocent little boys and happy-go-lucky little girls playing in the neighborhood. But I know, if we can’t reach them and protect them from the evil and violence in our city, they will become the hardened, calloused souls that become these power hungry, angry humans as adults. Their innocence will be stolen, their smiles will quickly fade. We need your love, grace and justice in our city, in our neighborhoods, in our sweet children that play in their yards. Help us oh God!

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root