

- 1 ¶ <<Shiggaion of David, which he sang unto the LORD, concerning the words of Cush the Benjamite.>> O LORD my God, in thee do I put my trust: save me from all them that persecute me, and deliver me:
- 2 Lest he tear my soul like a lion, rending it in pieces, while there is none to deliver.
- 3 O LORD my God, if I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands;
- 4 If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:)
- 5 Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah (Psalm 7)

Let us suppose that we, like the psalmist, have been slandered. False representations have been made of our speech, our actions, our intents. Our character is being assassinated. Our first impulse is to run out and defend ourselves, to refute the lies, and recover our image and reputation among men.

But if we trust in God, fear and love Him above all, should we not make our appeal primarily to Him? Is it not true that His favor and His opinion are to be sought above that of all men. And how shall we fool Him? He already knows of the accusation, the accusers and even the accused.

Therefore, it behooves us to ask ourselves the following questions:

Do I indeed deserve this slander? If these particular details are not exactly true, am I scoundrel enough that they *could* be true, and have I not actually committed such or worse things?

Is there truth in what is said of me? If the whole story is not the truth, is there not some truth in it?

Have I honestly searched my soul, my heart, tongue and deeds for the works of iniquity? Is there not bitterness in my heart, dishonesty in my words, and impurity in my deeds?

Have I gone the second mile with my enemy? Have I “done him good,” been his “deliverer?”

We must be ready to accept the punishment, the affliction, the rebuke and correction due us. We must not shirk from earned humiliation. It would do most of us inestimable good to have our “honor laid in the dust” at appropriate seasons.

-C.M.