

Psalms 56:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.

Analysis

Enemies' continual twisting of David's words ('wrest my words') reveals the weapon of slander. The Hebrew 'atsab' (pain/grieve) shows how verbal assault injures. All their thoughts being 'against me for evil' indicates comprehensive hostility, prefiguring Christ who faced constant opposition seeking grounds for accusation (Matthew 22:15).

Historical Context

David's words were constantly misconstrued, whether by Saul who viewed him as a threat or by Philistines who suspected his loyalty. This psalm shows how the righteous suffer not only physical persecution but assault on their character and motives.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How should you respond when your words and motives are persistently misrepresented?
2. What does Christ's silent endurance of false accusation teach about responding to slander?

Interlinear Text

מִחְשְׁבָת מְלָא לְעֵמֶק דְּבָרִים בְּזַעַם כָּל
H3605 Every day my words they wrest H5921 H3605 all their thoughts
H3117 H1697 H6087 H4284

לְעֵמֶק
are against me for evil

H7451

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 22:15 (Parallel theme): Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

Luke 11:54 (Parallel theme): Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

Psalms 41:7 (Parallel theme): All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt.

2 Peter 3:16 (Word): As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

1 Samuel 18:21 (Word): And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.

John 2:19 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

1 Samuel 18:17 (Parallel theme): And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.

Jeremiah 18:18 (Word): Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.

Matthew 26:61 (Parallel theme): And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

1 Samuel 18:29 (Parallel theme): And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.