



While Protecting The Vulnerable (Psalm 124)
LOVE Expressed sermon series
By Pastor David Hillis, 03.10.19

BIG IDEA: Standing up for the vulnerable is seldom safe or easy, but there is no better expression of love.

We are all vulnerable at times; no one is immune from injustice.

[\(Ecclesiastes 1-6\)](#)

- We want to believe we are in control of our lives, but there are hazards on the road of every person's journey.
- The financial safety net we build can be gone tomorrow; so no insurances policy, no security system is able to keep us or our possessions fully safe.
- There are people among us who are especially vulnerable: those trapped in addiction, or poverty; the homeless, seniors and children.

Love protects the vulnerable.

[\(Psalm 32:7 \(ESV\), 91:1-16, 103:6; Proverbs 24:11-12, 31:8-9; Isaiah 1:17, 43:2; Matthew 7:12 \(MSG\); James 1:27\)](#)

- God shows his love for us in how He protects us; when trouble sweeps over us, He is there and though he does not keep us from trials, he does help us through them.
- God calls us, expects us, to get involved in protecting the most vulnerable around us.
- We do not do what is safe, we do what is *right*, therefore, our prayers should be for protection, not safety.

NEXT STEP: Who has God put in my life to not just know, but to help? People who are a little bit more vulnerable than me, and would see your efforts as a true expression of love?

FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. This week, Pastor Dave contrasted [Ecclesiastes 4:1-3](#) to [Psalm 124](#) to show us how we can love others like God loves us by protecting people more vulnerable than ourselves. As you read the passages from the Bible in your readings this week, consider how God has loved you and even used others in your life to love you through helping you in the past when you were a little more vulnerable.
2. There are a wealth of Scriptures that talk not only about how God protects the vulnerable, but how He calls us to do so with Him. Read through these this week, and see how God is speaking to you about partnering with Him to help those around you.
 - *Examples of how God protects the vulnerable:* [Psalm 12:5, 32:7, 91:1-16, 121:7-8, 129:1-4; Isaiah 25:4, 43:2.](#)
 - *Examples of how God calls us to protect the vulnerable with Him:* [Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 24:11-12, 31:8-9; Isaiah 1:17; Matthew 7:12; James 1:27.](#) The [book of Ruth](#) is also a great example of a Godly person protecting others less vulnerable, and the impact it can have on a family.
3. Spend some more time this week considering who God has already put in your life to help and protect. If you don't have anyone like that in your life, ask God to direct you to someone. What kind of person would you feel most called to come alongside? A foster child, a senior citizen failing in health, someone trying to beat an addiction? The number of opportunities, even in our community, are vast. Decide what God is asking of you, and commit to following through today.
4. This week, we will be reading Ecclesiastes, and Psalms 107-134 together.
Day 1: Ecclesiastes 1-5 ([TEXT](#) / [AUDIO](#)), or abbreviated reading [Ecclesiastes 1, 5](#)
Day 2: Ecclesiastes 6-12 ([TEXT](#) / [AUDIO](#)), or abbreviated reading [Ecclesiastes 10-12](#)
Day 3: Psalms 107-117 ([TEXT](#) / [AUDIO](#)), or abbreviated reading [Psalms 111-112](#)
Day 4: Psalms 118-120 ([TEXT](#) / [AUDIO](#)), or abbreviated reading [Psalm 119:1-40](#)
Day 5: Psalms 121-134 ([TEXT](#) / [AUDIO](#)), or abbreviated reading [Psalms 121, 124](#)
5. As you follow the reading schedule in this series *Love Expressed*, consider each day these two questions:
 - (1) How do I see God's desire to express love *to* me?
 - (2) How do I see God's desire to express love *through* me?
6. As you go about each day, consider praying regularly this simple prayer: "*Holy Spirit, help me be more aware than ever today how your love is being expressed around me, to me and through me.*"