

RESCUE SUNDAY

Sermon



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Terrify No More – Psalm 10.

(PP Slide 1)

Destiny Rescue welcomes you to Rescue Sunday. Has anyone here heard of Destiny Rescue?

Today, we will take you on a journey into some of the darkest places on the planet and present to you how the Kingdom of God is overcoming the darkness through the mission of Destiny Rescue.

(PP Slide 2)

CONTENT WARNING: I must bring a content warning to you. This presentation contains sensitive material that may be disturbing or upsetting. Viewer discretion is advised and you are free to leave the room at any time. We do encourage you to talk with a person that you trust about how you're feeling.

(PP Slide 3)

Tony was born in Auckland, New Zealand, and relocated to Australia with his family when he was ten. He grew up in Cairns and eventually moved to North Queensland, where he ran his electrical business.

When in Thailand, he heard a story about an American man who came to Thailand and was offered USD\$400 to buy children to do with them as he pleased.

Shocked to learn that slavery still existed to a far worse extent than he could have imagined — with children being sold as sex slaves — he knew he had to take action. "Doing nothing wasn't an option."

This revelation set his heart and life on a journey to fight for every child needing rescue.

Since 2011, with the partnership of compassionate and determined supporters, Destiny Rescue has recorded over 16,000 rescues.

Approximately 10,000 of these have been children!

Here is Destiny Rescue in action. <https://youtu.be/wdrFla79mlg>
(to be downloaded and played in the service)

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It's a very sad reality that slavery still exists. In fact, human trafficking is the second-largest trade in the world today.

We will hear more about the enormity of the sexual exploitation of children soon, but first meet Ariana, a survivor from Africa.

(Insert AUS_H_D_UHD_ARIANA to be inserted or downloaded)

(PP Slide 7)

Destiny Rescue believes that God has asked us to live out Isaiah 61:1; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. This is our mission every day until all children trapped in this evil are free. The opportunity to share in the next rescue is before us today.

It's okay to feel sad, angry or outraged — this is exactly how God wants us to react. May our hearts break for exploited children.

God loves and longs for all children to be free. When King David penned Psalm 10, this is precisely how he felt about the wicked exploiting the vulnerable. Let's look and see how this ancient Psalm continues to read our world and lives today.

1. (PP Slide 8) The wickedness of the wicked

(PP Slide 9) - Psalm 10: 7-11 (NIV)

His mouth is full of lies and threats;

trouble and evil are under his tongue.

He lies in wait near the villages;

from ambush he murders the innocent.

His eyes watch in secret for his victims;

like a lion in cover he lies in wait.

He lies in wait to catch the helpless;

he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net.

His victims are crushed, they collapse;

they fall under his strength.

He says to himself, "God will never notice;

he covers his face and never sees."

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We see here how David lamented over the *wickedness of the wicked* thousands of years ago. His depiction of the wicked here is one of predators. These swindlers and criminals go to great lengths to target unsuspecting and vulnerable people.

It's chilling to recognise how traffickers today carry on this same evil work. Across our world, traffickers lie in wait to catch helpless children to exploit, crushing their souls. For example, in Nepal, they lie to parents, offering a better life for the children, only to traffic kids across the border into India.

It would appear that the wicked today say under their breath exactly what David lamented, "*God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees.*"

At face value, one might think that God doesn't notice.

(PP Slides 10-13)

- More than 1 million Children are victims of exploitation
- 99% are girls
- 60% of victims are in Asia
- The commercial sex trade generates \$99 Billion per year

Each statistic is a real child who has a name, who lives and breathes a nightmare until she or he is rescued!

Does God notice the *wickedness of the wicked*? Does He see each exploited child? Or does God cover his face? Is He indifferent?

In this next stanza of Psalm 10, King David petitions God to act!

2. (PP Slide 14) Arise

(PP Slide 15) - Psalm 10:12-14 (NIV)

Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand, O God.

Do not forget the helpless.

13 Why does the wicked man revile God?

Why does he say to himself,

"He won't call me to account"?

14 But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted;

you consider their grief and take it in hand.

The victims commit themselves to you;

you are the helper of the fatherless.

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Destiny Rescue testifies to what King David exclaims: But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand.

In the Philippines, our rescue agents encountered a young girl in a bar who had been crying out to Jesus for rescue. God sees, hears and sends our agents. This is Taliah's story.

(Tala's Story, Broken to Beautiful, is to be inserted for download.)

Tala committed herself to God, and God (through Destiny Rescue agents) was able to rescue Tala. Countless more victims are being exploited today, and you can join Destiny Rescue agents to be the answer to the prayers of kids who are living a nightmare.

There is a growing movement of people around this nation – standing with Destiny Rescue to share in the rescue of the next Tala – and today, you will have that opportunity.

We will invite you to weave rescue into your discipleship and effectively carry on the mission of Jesus to bring justice through to victory.

A move of generosity here unlocks freedom for a child trapped in exploitation

Justice is what each child longs for so that they will be terrified no more!

3. (PP Slide 17) Terrify No More

(PP Slide 18) - Psalm 10:15-18 (NIV)

- ¹⁵ *Break the arm of the wicked man;
call the evildoer to account for his wickedness
that would not otherwise be found out.*
- ¹⁶ *The Lord is King for ever and ever;
the nations will perish from his land.*
- ¹⁷ *You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted;
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry,*
- ¹⁸ *defending the fatherless and the oppressed,
so that mere earthly mortals
will terrify no more.*

Just to clarify, let's check in a couple more translations. **The NIV says:**
*so that mere earthly mortals
will never again strike terror.*

And **The Message** paints it poetically:
*The victim's faint pulse picks up;
the hearts of the hopeless pump red blood
as you put your ear to their lips.
Orphans get parents,
the homeless get homes.
The reign of terror is over,
the rule of the gang lords is ended.*

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The founder of Destiny Rescue, Tony Kirwan, says, ***“Every child is worth the risk, worth the love, worth the cost”.***

Why? Destiny Rescue joins in with King David’s cry to defend the oppressed so that *“the rule of the gang lords is ended”* and vulnerable and exploited children would be terrified no more.

(PP Slide 20)

Rescue is only the first step. After a child is rescued, a Freedom Plan is implemented so each survivor can receive trauma-informed care and be reintegrated to live the life and destiny God has designed for them.

(PP Slide 21)

Rescue teams working across Africa, Asia, Latin America and online are equipped to

(PP Slide 22) attend to a survivor’s critical needs.

Our agents or survivor care providers share the Gospel with survivors when they can.

(PP Slide 23)

- A safe place to live.
- Urgent health care needs.
- Temporary economic assistance.
- Educational and/or vocational plans.
- Emotional health needs.
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Defending the oppressed is not limited to a one-time rescue.

For survivors to be terrified no more, they must be offered another road to walk, fresh opportunities that lead to their ongoing freedom – and support so they can flourish.

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Today, we celebrate her freedom.

(Are we able to incorporate one of these survivor quotes?)

Abigail is from Kenya and was 17 when rescued:

“My hope [for children trapped in exploitation] is that they get someone to come to their rescue like someone came through for me. That is my utmost prayer to so many girls out there. I know that some girl (right now) is thinking, ‘Who will come to my rescue?’ And if somebody, somewhere, can come through for them like they did for me, then it will be wonderful. They won’t have to live through the life that they are living right now, and they’ll get to support their families.”

- Abigail, 17 when rescued, Kenya.

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Over 15,000 children have been rescued, and this number is growing each year.

(PP Slide 26)

For this to continue to grow, we need your participation. There is great joy in sharing in the rescue and restoration of children’s lives. Become a Rescue Partner today!

The *wickedness of the wicked* continues today, and the traffickers count on us to do nothing. If we do nothing, this immoral trade will continue.

However, together, we can empower Rescue Agents to free more children.

You can be the answer to the cry of kids today by taking a stand and becoming a Rescue Partner.

We have forms here today with five lines to fill out – five lines that will change a child’s life.

We welcome you to begin a conversation with us today about taking your stand and joining Destiny Rescue in the fight for her freedom.

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She may never know your name, but she can't rewrite her story without you!

Let's pray;

*Our Lord, we call on your name today to arise and act,
for each child suffering in exploitation.*

*We are deeply moved by their plight,
and we ask that you stir within us a strong determination
to stand with these victims
so that each child will be terrified no more.*

*We pray for the rescue agents
— for protection, wisdom and perseverance in the
struggle to rescue a child.*

*For the aftercare specialists
— may you use their healing hands to bring restoration.*

*We pray that the church of Australia will rise as one
until all are free.*