

melody strings labored

O Lord don't rebuke me in Your anger  
O Lord and deliver me

or save me from the discipline of Your wrath  
or save me from the cause of Your unfaithfulness  
or save me from the love of Your wrath

merciful to me, O Lord, for I am faint when he is dead  
O Lord, who praise you from the grave?  
for my bones are in anguish

my soul is in anguish, how long O Lord how long?  
all night I flood my bed with weeping, my couch is drenched with tears

my eyes grow weak with sorrow, for the Lord has heard my weeping  
they fail because of my foes, the Lord has heard my cry  
away from the Lord has

me all you who do evil the Lord accepts my prayer my all my en- e- mies be a-  
 heard heard my cry for mercy

shared and dis-mayed may they turn back in sudden dis- grace

## **Psalm 6**

**O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony.**

**My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long? Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. No one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave?**

**I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.**

**My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.**

**Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping.**

**The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer.**

**All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.**

## School of Grace

What happens when your life falls apart?

As I write it seems impossible to think that a month ago Tiger Woods was one of the most recognised sportsmen. In a short space of time his life unravelled. And while the media is following the whole story as it unfolds, I can't help but wonder what must be going through his mind.

His reputation ruined. His career is, at least for now, over. His family torn apart. He now has the echoes of what he said crying out in irony. And all his decisions have to be evaluated and reviewed. Nothing will be the same for him now. In fact, he is at a point where he can't go back, and it seems impossible to move forward.

I wonder if anyone is offering him grace. I wonder if anyone is offering him mercy.

It is easy for me to sit here and write these words, given that I don't have any personal feelings either way for Tiger. And I know that the situation is difficult for all concerned, which I haven't had any personal experience in. It is at this point that Christianity becomes practical.

We can sing songs. We can read our Bibles. But unless we begin practicing grace, our religion has nothing to offer. I know that Christians are involved in many good causes, and have helped many. But all our advice, all our activities are useless unless they begin and end with the unfailing love of God.

Can we see beyond what someone does and love them?

Can we see beyond what someone says and love them?

Can we see beyond their hatred and love them?

Can we see beyond their mistakes and love them?

There are no quick fixes. There are no instant formulas.