

Summer in the Psalms

Lesson Eleven • Psalm 73

When It Seems Life Isn't Fair

An Age Old Question:

How can a good God allow the righteous to SUFFER and the wicked to SUCCEED?

A Crisis of Faith:

What we SEE in life often collides with what we KNOW about God, and this can cause a crisis of faith.

Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Psalm 73:1-3

Two Perspectives When It Seems Life Isn't Fair:

1. DOUBT Builds When We Focus On the Success of the Wicked!

For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Psalm 73:3

When Asaph Sees the Wicked in Life...

- He ENVIES how the wicked live. vs. 3-12
- He REGRETS how he lives. vs. 13-14
- He WRESTLES with how God works. vs. 15-16

What Do We Learn from Asaph So Far?

We will doubt God's goodness as long as we draw CONCLUSIONS from what we see in life.

2. FAITH Triumphs When We Focus On the Goodness of God!

When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me—until I went into the sanctuary of God... Psalm 73:16-17

The Turning Point Begins in Worship!

Worshiping God CLARIFIES what we see in life from God's perspective of eternity.

"Worship puts God at the center of our vision. It is vitally important because it is only when God is at the center of our vision that we see things as they really are." ~Roy Clements

When Asaph Sees the Lord in Worship...

- He remembers the wicked's FUTURE. vs. 17-20
- He realizes his own FOOLISHNESS. vs. 21-22
- He rejoices in God's FAITHFULNESS. vs. 23-26

When It's All Said and Done:

It's bad to be FAR from God but it's good to be NEAR God.

For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. But it is good for me to draw near to God... Psalm 73:27-28

How Should We Respond?

TRUST in God's goodness and TELL others about God's greatness.

I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works. Psalm 73:28