

Sermon Notes | Psalm 73

Part 1: Rising tension. Verse 1-12

Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

² **But** as for me, my feet had **almost stumbled**, my steps had nearly slipped.

³ For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the **prosperity of the wicked**.

⁴ For they have **no pangs** until death; their bodies are **fat** and sleek.

⁵ They are **not in trouble** as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

⁶ Therefore **pride** is their necklace; **violence** covers them as a garment.

⁷ Their eyes swell out through **fatness**; their hearts **overflow with follies**.

⁸ They **scoff** and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.

⁹ They set their **mouths against the heavens**, and their tongue struts through the earth.

¹⁰ Therefore his people **turn back to them**, and find no fault in them.

¹¹ And they say, "How can God know? **Is there knowledge** in the Most High?"

¹² Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they **increase in riches**.

Part 2: Climax v 13-15, I feel like quitting!

¹³ **All in vain** have I kept my **heart clean** and washed my **hands** in innocence.

¹⁴ For all the day long I have been **stricken and rebuked** every morning.

¹⁵ If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

Part 3: Resolution v 16-24

¹⁶ But when I thought **how to understand this**, it seemed to me a wearisome task,

¹⁷ **until** I went into the **sanctuary of God**; then I discerned **their end**.

¹⁸ Truly you set them in **slippery places**; you make them fall to ruin.

¹⁹ How they are **destroyed** in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!

²⁰ **Like a dream** when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

²¹ When my soul was **embittered**, when I was pricked in heart,

²² I was brutish and ignorant; I was **like a beast** toward you.

²³ **Nevertheless**, I am **continually with you**; you hold my right hand.

²⁴ You **guide** me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to **glory**.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but **you**? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides **you**.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the **strength** of my heart and my **portion** forever.

²⁷ For behold, those who are **far from you shall perish**; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

²⁸ But for me it is **good to be near God**; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may **tell of all your works**.

Big idea: Real Prosperity is Life with God.

Discussion Questions | Psalm 73

- What did God speak to you this weekend?

Read Psalm 73:1–3

- When have you honestly confessed a temptation or struggle to God?

Read Psalm 73:4–12

- How have you seen the wicked prosper in your life? How do you feel about it?

Read Psalm 73:13–16

- When have you been tempted to think that following Jesus is not worth it?

Read Psalm 73:17

- What does it look like to enter the sanctuary of God?
- How has God given you a new perspective in your life?

Read Psalm 73:18–24

- How true is this statement for you: "God really is all I desire"?
- What is one thing you can do this week to be with God and let Him change your perspective?

