

Psalms for Every Season: Wisdom Psalms

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Psalm 73

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Reflection & Discussion

All 150 Psalms showcase a range of life experiences and emotions in talking to God

Each one is raw and honest, and embraced by God.

*Are you comfortable having these many types of conversations with God? When are you intimidated?

*What has stuck out to you in this Psalms for All Seasons series?

Asaph is facing a crisis of faith that results in Psalm 73, noticing those not following God seemed to be prospering

Read and discuss Psalm 73:1-12 (NIV)

¹ Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.

² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;
I had nearly lost my foothold.

³ For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴ They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.

⁵ They are free from common human burdens;
they are not plagued by human ills.

⁶ Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.

⁷ From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.

⁸ They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.

⁹ Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the earth.

¹⁰ Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.

¹¹ They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"

¹² This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.

*What do you notice in this passage about frustration or doubt?

*Can you relate to a time you had this or other type of crisis of faith?

*Do you have the same sort of recognition Asaph is sharing with God? How do you respond?

He has begun to doubt his efforts to serve and follow God were not worth it

Read and discuss Psalm 73:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.

¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punishments.

¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.

¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply

*What do you notice in this passage about Asaph's reaction?

*Have you felt the burden of carrying responsibility for causing someone to stumble?

Something happens to change Asaph's perspective

Read and discuss Psalm 73:17-28 (NIV)

¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.

¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground;
you cast them down to ruin.

¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!

²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes;

when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.

²¹ When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,

²² I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.

²³ Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

*24 You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.*

*25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing 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 Those who are far from you will perish;
you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.*

*28 But as for me, it is good to be near God.
I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.*

*What do you notice in this passage about how and why Asaph's perception shifts?

*Can you think of a time that God's presence has changed your perspective or flipped your doubts around?

God's presence and a relationship is the best thing that can happen to us

Worship drives us to a renewed perspective.

*How does Asaph's journey encourage you on your own?

*Are there ways the promise of heaven gets in the way of a personal relationship with Jesus?

*What is the Spirit saying to you through this psalm about your current season of life? Where are you being invited into the perspective-shifting God's presence can provide?

*Are you sensing the Spirit inviting you to something through any of the types of psalms we've discussed?

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