

# Midweek Study

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## When Life Doesn't Seem Fair

Psalm 73:1-28

### 1) The **Conflict** (73:1–3)

<sup>1</sup> Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. <sup>2</sup> But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. <sup>3</sup> For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

### 2) The **Contrast** (73:4–16)

#### A. The Success of the Sinners

1. **They Were Wealthy** - He observed that the wicked were very wealthy in their business and financial affairs, to the point that he envied them: *"For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."* (Psalm 73:3) In verse 7, he notes that they had more than they needed: *"Their eyes bulge with abundance; they have more than heart could wish."* (Psalm 73:7)
2. **They Were Worry-Free** - The wicked seemed to sail through life without trouble. They even died peacefully—sometimes better than those who believe in God: *"For there are no pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like other men."* (Psalm 73:4–5)
3. **They Were Wild** - In verse 6, the psalmist says: *"Therefore pride serves as their necklace; violence covers them like a garment."* (Psalm 73:6) These people were wild with arrogance, strutting around and taking credit for everything while never thanking God for anything.
4. **They Were Wicked** - Verses 8–9 describe their ungodly behavior: *"They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth."* (Psalm 73:8–9)

## B. The Suffering of the Saints

1. **They Have Been Holy** - *"Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence."* (Psalm 73:13, NKJV) He had turned from sin, cleansed his heart, and tried to live righteously. He may have thought, "Now that I'm living right, everything should go my way."
2. **They Have Been Humbled** - *"For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning."* (Psalm 73:14, NKJV) Psalm 119:71 says: *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes."* Hebrews 12:6 says: *"For whom the Lord loves He chastens."*
3. **They Have Been Hurting** - His confusion about God's ways left him feeling spiritually wounded. *"If I had said, 'I will speak thus,' behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me."* (Psalm 73:15–16, NKJV)

## 3) The Clarity (73:17–20)

<sup>17</sup> **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.** <sup>18</sup> Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. <sup>19</sup> Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. <sup>20</sup> As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image.

## 4) The Confidence (73:21–28)

<sup>21</sup> Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. <sup>22</sup> I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. <sup>23</sup> Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. <sup>25</sup> **Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.** <sup>26</sup> **My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.** <sup>27</sup> For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. <sup>28</sup> But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.

### Applications for Today:

1. Time with God (Prayer, Devotions, Bible Study, Church Worship Services, etc.) help you have a proper perspective when envy and confusion cloud your mind. You will find gratitude and security in your eternal destiny. It will also give you pity and concern for the lost who may seem to be prospering.
2. Resist the urge to envy those who appear to succeed through ungodly means. Instead, trust that God's justice will prevail in His perfect timing. Rest in the assurance that God sees everything and will reward the righteous (Galatians 6:9).
3. Find contentment in your relationship with God above everything else. Shift your focus from earthly rewards to the eternal inheritance you have in Christ. Let God be the strength of your heart and your portion forever. Practice gratitude for His presence, guidance, and sustaining power in your life.