

Discussion Questions

Psalm 73 - Injustice: I Didn't Deserve This

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Ice Breaker (Optional. Take just a few minutes on this):

1. Which would be your preferred way to be pampered: an all-expense paid week a.) on a cruise; b.) at a resort on the beach; or c.) at a resort in the mountains?

Reflecting on the Passage

1. Read Psalm 73 aloud. What words, phrases or ideas catch your attention or raise questions?
2. From what practices should Christians abstain? (vss. 3-6)
3. Psalm 73 starts with a huge truth that many people find very difficult. Verse 1: "Truly God is good to Israel (God's OT people), to those who are pure in heart." What are some reasons why people are tempted to think God is not good?
4. Read verses 2-9 again. How would you define envy? What observations does Asaph make about the lives and attitudes of the people around him?
5. In the sermon, Pastor Paul offered this definition of "the wicked": *Those who advantage themselves by disadvantaging others*. What are some examples of this sort of behavior? How does this definition change your perspective on who you are "wicked" people?
6. How did the Psalmist come to see how mistaken his perspective was? What did he come to see with regard to the wicked (vss. 17-20) and what did he find that he possessed in God (vss 23-26)?

Reflecting on your Life

7. What from this passage can you use to share the gospel with an unbeliever?
8. Based on Psalm 73, what advice would you give a Christian:
 - a. - who is struggling with envy?
 - b. - who is doubting that God is good to them?
 - c. - who wants to make God more of their refuge and strength?
9. Take a few minutes for each person to write down a list of ways God has shown His goodness in Jesus Christ. Be specific as to how God's goodness shown to you in Jesus has impacted your life. Try to write at least 10 ways. Go around the group and share some of your responses.
10. What can we learn from Asaph's example in v. 15? Are you more likely to first vent your frustrations to others or to bring them "into the sanctuary"? How does venting "betray the generation of [God's] children" (v. 15)?
11. In the sermon, Pastor Paul said that going "into the sanctuary of God" doesn't just mean coming to Sunday worship, but it includes all the spiritual practices of the Christian life, like prayer, bible reading, fellowship, service, etc. It means seeking God's face (Psalm 27: 8). Why do people find it so hard to "go in" when times are hard?

12. In the sermon, Pastor Paul said “Truth is a cube not a square.” By that he meant that just like you can’t see all sides of a cube at once, truth also has multiple aspects to it that need to be held in tension with one another. People who see truth as a square only want to see one side, but that is often where heresy and false teachings arise. What challenges do you face when trying to hold together to various aspects of truth? How do you avoid the temptation to make truth a square?
13. How does Psalm 73 help you to live as a Christian in the Upper Valley in 2023?

Deeper into Scripture

14. Consider verses 16-17 and how Hebrews 10:19-25 helps us understand how Jesus opens the way to the sanctuary of God. What does Hebrews 10:19-25 say we should therefore do?

From the bulletin.... ***Kingdom Implications for Your Life:***

15. *How do you answer the deep question in verse 25? What steps do you need to take to think differently about your life situations?*