

Lesson 17 / Psalm 73

New International Version

Psalms 73

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 the burdens common to man; 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; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.
8 They scoff, and speak with malice; in their 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 can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"
12 This is what the wicked are like— always carefree, they increase in wealth.
13 Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.
14 All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.
15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.
16 When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me
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 As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O 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.

New Living Translation

Psalms 73

1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure.
2 But as for me, I came so close to the edge of the cliff! My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.
3 For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.
4 They seem to live such a painless life; their bodies are so healthy and strong.
5 They aren't troubled like other people or plagued with problems like everyone else.
6 They wear pride like a jeweled necklace, and their clothing is woven of cruelty.
7 These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for!
8 They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others.
9 They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth.
10 And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words.
11 "Does God realize what is going on?" they ask. "Is the Most High even aware of what is happening?"
12 Look at these arrogant people— enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.
13 Was it for nothing that I kept my heart pure and kept myself from doing wrong?
14 All I get is trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.
15 If I had really spoken this way, I would have been a traitor to your people.
16 So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is!
17 Then one day I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I thought about the destiny of the wicked.
18 Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction.
19 In an instant they are destroyed, swept away by terrors.
20 Their present life is only a dream that is gone when they awake. When you arise, O Lord, you will make them vanish from this life.
21 Then I realized how bitter I had become, how pained I had been by all I had seen.
22 I was so foolish and ignorant— I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.
23 Yet I still belong to you; you are holding my right hand.
24 You will keep on guiding me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.
25 Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth.
26 My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.
27 But those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you.
28 But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

Amplified Bible

Psalms 73

1 TRULY GOD is [only] good to Israel, even to those who are upright *and* pure in heart. **2** But as for me, my feet were almost gone, my steps had well-nigh slipped. **3** For I was envious of the foolish *and* arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. **4** For they suffer no violent pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. **5** They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they smitten *and* plagued like other men. **6** Therefore pride is about their necks like a chain; violence covers them like a garment [like a long, luxurious robe]. **7** Their eyes stand out with fatness, they have more than heart could wish; *and* the imaginations of their minds overflow [with follies]. **8** They scoff, and wickedly utter oppression; they speak loftily [from on high, maliciously and blasphemously]. **9** They set their mouths against *and* speak down from heaven, and their tongues swagger through the earth [invading even heaven with blasphemy and smearing earth with slanders].† **10** Therefore His people return here, and waters of a full cup [offered by the wicked] are [blindly] drained by them. **11** And they say, How does God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High? **12** Behold, these are the ungodly, who always prosper *and* are at ease in the world; they increase in riches. **13** Surely then in vain have I cleansed my heart and washed my hands in innocency. **14** For all the day long have I been smitten *and* plagued, and chastened every morning. **15** Had I spoken thus [and given expression to my feelings], I would have been untrue *and* have dealt treacherously against the generation of Your children. **16** But when I considered how to understand this, it was too great an effort for me *and* too painful **17** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood [for I considered] their end. **18** [After all] You do set the [wicked] in slippery places; You cast them down to ruin *and* destruction. **19** How they become a desolation in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors! **20** As a dream [which seems real] until one awakens, so, O Lord, when You arouse Yourself [to take note of the wicked], You will despise their outward show. **21** For my heart was grieved, embittered, *and* in a state of ferment, and I was pricked in my heart [as with the sharp fang of an adder]. **22** So foolish, stupid, *and* brutish was I, and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. **23** Nevertheless I am continually with You; You do hold my right hand. **24** You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to honor *and* glory. **25** Whom have I in heaven but You? And I have no delight *or* desire on earth besides You. **26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the Rock *and* firm Strength of my heart and my Portion forever. **27** For behold, those who are far from You shall perish; You will destroy all who are false to You *and* like [spiritual] harlots depart from You. **28** But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God *and* made Him my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works.

The Message

Psalms 73

1 No doubt about it! God is good— good to good people, good to the good-hearted.
2 But I nearly missed it, missed seeing his goodness.
3 I was looking the other way, looking up to the people
4 At the top, envying the wicked who have it made,
5 Who have nothing to worry about, not a care in the whole wide world.
6 Pretentious with arrogance, they wear the latest fashions in violence,
7 Pampered and overfed, decked out in silk bows of silliness.
8 They jeer, using words to kill; they bully their way with words.
9 They're full of hot air, loudmouths disturbing the peace.
10 People actually listen to them—can you believe it? Like thirsty puppies, they lap up their words.
11 What's going on here? Is God out to lunch? Nobody's tending the store.
12 The wicked get by with everything; they have it made, piling up riches
13 I've been stupid to play by the rules; what has it gotten me?
14 A long run of bad luck, that's what— a slap in the face every time I walk out the door.
15 If I'd have given in and talked like this, I would have betrayed your dear children.
16 Still, when I tried to figure it out, all I got was a splitting headache . . .
17 Until I entered the sanctuary of God. Then I saw the whole picture:
18 The slippery road you've put them on, with a final crash in a ditch of delusions.
19 In the blink of an eye, disaster! A blind curve in the dark, and—nightmare!
20 We wake up and rub our eyes. . . . Nothing. There's nothing to them. And there never was.
21 When I was beleaguered and bitter, totally consumed by envy,
22 I was totally ignorant, a dumb ox in your very presence.
23 I'm still in your presence, but you've taken my hand.
24 You wisely and tenderly lead me, and then you bless me.
25 You're all I want in heaven! You're all I want on earth!
26 When my skin sags and my bones get brittle, GOD is rock-firm and faithful.
27 Look! Those who left you are falling apart! Deserters, they'll never be heard from again.
28 But I'm in the very presence of God— oh, how refreshing it is! I've made Lord GOD my home. God, I'm telling the world what you do!