

November 5, 2017

Series: Authentic: Living Life through the Psalms

Title: I was so Jealous, until...

Text: Psalms 73:1-28

### The Crisis of Faith

<sup>1</sup> *Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure.* <sup>2</sup> *But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.* <sup>3</sup> *For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.* <sup>4</sup> *They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong.* <sup>5</sup> They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. <sup>7</sup> *These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for!* <sup>8</sup> They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. <sup>9</sup> *They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth.* <sup>10</sup> *And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words.* <sup>11</sup> "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?" <sup>12</sup> *Look at these wicked people— enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.*

### The Turning Point of Faith

<sup>13</sup> *Did I keep my heart pure for nothing?* Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? <sup>14</sup> I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. <sup>15</sup> *If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people.* <sup>16</sup> So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! <sup>17</sup> Then *I went into*

*your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood* the destiny of the wicked.

### The Resolution of Faith

<sup>18</sup> Truly, you put them *on a slippery path* and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. <sup>19</sup> In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. <sup>20</sup> When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning. <sup>21</sup> *Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside.* <sup>22</sup> *I was so foolish and ignorant— I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.* <sup>23</sup> *Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand.* <sup>24</sup> *You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.* <sup>25</sup> *Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth.* <sup>26</sup> *My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.* <sup>27</sup> Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. <sup>28</sup> *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.*

#### I. Why we get in Crisis (Sometimes) (v. 1-12)

- a. Challenges arise in our lives and we begin to question the goodness of God.  
(v.1 – *God is good ... to those whose heart are pure...*)
- b. We judge ourselves in comparison to others who do not honor or respect God.  
(v.3 – For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper... despite their wickedness)  
- **Prov. 14:30 NLT** – *A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body; jealousy (envy) is like cancer in the bones.*  
**Envied** – jealous, to get heated, become excited, to annoy, to be in torment, to rebel

- The premise we live with is that prosperity should be the fruit of the righteous, not the wicked.
- Theologically, we believe that prosperity is the guarantee to the righteous (v. **Psalms 1:3 NLT** – *they shall be like the tree planted ... and they shall prosper in all they do*)

**-The prosperity of the wicked is outlined by the Psalmist**

- v. 4 – *They seem to be healthy. They seem to know no pain*
- v. 5 – *They seem to be trouble free; the day to day problems that plague most people seem to be unknown to them*
- v. 6 – *They are wealthy; they seem to make money and wear the finest jewels and clothes*
- v. 7 – *They are “fat cats” and seem to have everything their heart desires.*
- v. 7 – *They are arrogant and its demonstrated in how they treat other people (with cruelty).*
- v. 8-12 – *They boast, disdain God and seem to live a life of ease.*

The Psalmist crisis is simply this... **“THIS IS NOT THE WAY IT’S SUPPOSE TO BE!”**

**POINT #1: Things are RARELY the way they seem!**

- **Front side:** You never know anyone’s pain completely
  - **“All the glitters IS not Gold!”**
  - **“The Grass is always greener on the other side of the fence” (but the water bill is higher)!**
- **Flip side:** God is blessing them, even when they don’t recognize it.
  - **God is good to all, even the unrighteous – that’s just the way He is!**
  - **Matt. 5:43-48 NLT** - This passage tells us something about Father God!
 

**43)** “You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. **44)** But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! **45)** In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. **For he**

**gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and he sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. 46)** If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. **47)** If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that. **48)** **But you are to be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect. (In your love toward unrighteous people)**

**II. When Our Faith Turns (Turning Point) (v. 13-17)**

- When we settle in our hearts that faith in God (his way) is never in vain.**
  - **v.13** – **Did I keep my heart pure for nothing ...** – *this brutal honesty is permitted, it is the depth of a question that can be the turning point in times of crisis.*
- Some things you can only get right, in the presence of God (right perspective on matters of life and godliness)**
  - **v. 17** - **Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood**
  - **Things you get in His presence...**
    - **You get understanding**
    - **You get joy**  
**Psalms 16:11 ESV** – *You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*
    - **You sense He is near and truth**  
**Psalms 145:18 ESV** – The **Lord is near** to all who call on him, to all who call on him **in truth.**
    - **You get refreshed**  
**Acts 3:20 ESV** – *“That times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord...”*

## **POINT #2: His Presence will ALWAYS change your perspective!**

### **III. When we Resolve the Crisis (Resolution)**

#### **a. About the wicked or unrighteous (they are on a slippery path) – v. 18**

- i. The heart of God is always for their repentance; that's God's business!
  - It is not wise to compare yourself with others in the journey of life – 2 Cor. 10:12
  - Mind your own business – 1 Thess. 4:11-12

#### **b. Repent and Resolve (Faith Resolution)**

- i. Read it as a Confession of Faith – **Psalm 73:21-26, 28**

*<sup>21</sup> Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. <sup>22</sup> I was so foolish and ignorant— I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. <sup>23</sup> Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. <sup>24</sup> You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.*

*<sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. <sup>26</sup> My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.*

*<sup>28</sup> 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.*

### **I was so jealous, until ...**

- *I recognized that my situation has nothing to do with what God is doing with others ... **he will guide me with His counsel, He will lead me to a glorious destiny!** (v. 24)*
- *I realized that I had nothing to be jealous about – **God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever!** (v. 26)*

## **POINT #3: When you belong to Him, you are ALWAYS on SOLID GROUND!**

### **Final Thought: In good times and bad, Be Confident in God's Plan for you!**