

Introduction:

As I walked across my college campus, I half-prayed and half muttered feelings of anger and resentment toward God like never before.

I had only months ago made the biggest and most sacrificial Lordship decision of my life . . . **only to “get this!”**

I irreverently (and unwisely) told God He better speak to me very clearly when I got back to my room or “I was out of this Christian life for good.”

A song of pain and perspective when life doesn't seem fair:

Psalm 73

¹Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. ²But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. ³For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

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

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

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

⁷From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.

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

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

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

¹¹They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?" ¹²This is what the wicked are like-- always carefree, they increase in wealth.

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

¹⁴All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.

¹⁵If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.

¹⁶When I tried

to understand all this, it was oppressive to me. . .

¹⁷Till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny. ¹⁸Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin. ¹⁹How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!

²⁰As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.

²¹When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,

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

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

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

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

²⁷Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.

²⁸But 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.

Life lessons from Psalm 73:

1. Pour out your heart! Even godly people struggle with doubts and confusion when God's truth and their experience doesn't mesh. (vs. 1-14)

2. Consider carefully your choices! When tempted to "throw in the towel" we must weigh the impact it will have on others. (vs. 15-16)

3. Get the big picture! When we see life through an eternal perspective we realize what's really important and what's not. (vs. 17-26)

4. Reaffirm your relationship with God! Ultimately God's presence is the only **sure source** of security and joy, both now and forever. (vs. 27-28)

❖ A Testimony of Psalm 73

Action Steps:

For personal, family, growth groups, and ministry team use.

1. When was the last time you experienced a “raw deal” (a real injustice)?
2. How did you respond?
3. Which of the **Life Lessons** were most helpful to you? Why?
4. What specific step do you believe God would have you take to experience His presence even amidst the “raw deal” you have experienced?
5. Will you take that step today?