

Intro: This past week someone asked me, what do you think of Joel Osteen? My reply was simple.

"I just never find life to be that simple and easy! Love God and it all falls into place! Doesn't seem to work for me!

Life is sometimes VERY difficult...and that is a little of what David is talking about in our Psalm this morning.

Why Do GOOD Things Happen To Bad People?

Flip Side!

Why Do BAD Things Happen To Good People!

Asaph (the Psalmist) is processing that question. I'm sure you have seen it, and felt it. Someone you know is just awful Lie, cheat, steal, treat people awful...and they always seem to get away with it! In fact, they sometimes say...why don't you!

At the same time, you try to do what is right, honor God, walk with Him, treat people right...and you pay a price

They succeed...and seemingly get rewarded...and you struggle to survive.

That is what the Psalmist is processing

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1. The Overview Of The Problem Asaph Is Struggling With!

Vs 1-4

1. I **KNOW** God is good! (*gracious, kind, loving, provider of good*)
2. I **FEEL** like something is **WRONG!**

Everything is out of balance all of a sudden...because what I KNOW and what I SEE are at ODDS!

If God is in control...What do BAD PEOPLE HAVE GOOD things happen to them!

(*and unstated...but in the background somewhere...what about ME!*)

One of the things I love about the Psalms is the "real" way in which they describe life.

Asaph is right up front...doesn't pull any punches: This is driving me crazy! AS FOR ME...

- Slipped: *Outstretched, overthrown, sprawl out, to slip out from under (pour out and run in different directions)*
- Envied: *jealous in a bad way, envious, upset and not understanding*

When I saw

- Arrogant: *Boastful celebration,*
- Prosperity: *Blessing and overflowing abundance of goodness*
- Wicked: *Evil, bad, morally wrong and ungodly*

Applic: Asaph says, I'm tired of watching the bad guys win...and boast about it!

When I see that it "tilts" my thinking! (Pinball machine) TILT

Miss my step, trips me up, today's video games...I'm down to my last life...and that one is at risk!

2. The Specifics And Details That Upset Asaph.

Vs 5-16

After he says, I'm jealous of how good they have it...he then details 10 or 15 complaints...things he says they do!

➤ Wicked Prosper

- ~Vs 4: No Struggles: *No bands that hold them back, hinder them, keep them from doing what they want*
- ~Vs 5: Free fm Burdens: *Don't have ordinary struggles that everyone else seems to have!*
- ~Vs 6: Pride Necklace: *Wear pride around their neck like it is a fashion accessory!*
Violence Coat *Their way of getting what they want is to hurt others...*
- ~Vs 7: Fat and Callous hearts: *They are Fat, Dumb, and Happy about it!*
Evil Conceits no limit *They have no fear or shame to hold them back, speak the evil of their heart w/o limit*
- ~Vs 8: Scoff/Speak w/ malice *Ridicule and look down on those who trying to do right thing, harm with words*
Arrogance oppress: *Lit = they speak as if from "on high" and threaten harm to get their way*
- ~Vs 9: Mouth claim heaven *Blaspheme against heaven, say all the right things, talk a good game*
Tongue take earth *But it is only to get their way, do what they want, win people over*
- ~Vs 10: People turn to them *And people do! They Suck up everything they are saying...and BELIEVE it!*
- ~Vs 11: How can God know *They are so arrogant they say...God doesn't know or see or care!*
- ~Vs 12: Carefree/Increase wealth *And it seems like it is working! They are having their way! All goes their way!*

➤ Righteous Suffer!

- ~Vs 13: In Vain: *Lit = I am wasting my time and effort doing the right thing!*
- ~Vs 14: Plagued: *All day I do right and suffer: All day they do wrong and Prosper (Whats up w that)*
Every morning I get up to another round of abuse
- ~Vs 15: If I had said: *If I did what they do...I would have been unfaithful...I would have been disciplined*
- ~Vs 16: Tried to Understand *When I tried to understand it...it just wore me out...I DON'T GET IT!*

Asaph has laid his case out...argued his point, tried to carry the day.

It's like he is just "throwing up" emotionally...

What He KNOWS and What he SEES are so totally out of synch that he simply can't process it...Too much for him

3. Then, The Turning Point!

Vs 17

When I got in your presence...When I was able to be with You...In worship...THEN I got Perspective!

What helped me understand it all was, when I understood...what is the final outcome!

It's all about what happens for eternity...Where are we going to be at the end of the day...NOT JUST NOW!

Here is something we overlook. If we don't ever take time to get "God's Perspective" on things...we won't evaluate correctly!
What we think...what we conclude...what we see...it just like watching a parade through the knot hole in a fence
What we see is just a small snapshot...and it isn't the real outcome. It isn't what really counts.
We need to get God's perspective...and when we do THAT...Then we can begin to process things correctly!

4. Now Look At How Things Seem When You Get The Right Perspective! Vs 18-20; 21-26

Now, when we see things from God's perspective instead of our own...the tables are flipped...everything is different!

- *Wicked are on Shaky Ground!*
~Vs 18: They are on Slippery ground! Ref Vs 2: I thought I was slipping...but now I see..they are! SAME WORD
They are ready to be pushed down...all it takes is a breathe
- ~Vs 19: It all can be over in an instant!!! It seems like everything is going their way...walk on thin ice!
- ~Vs 20: They are living a dream...but it's not a GOOD dream...they are living a nightmare!
One day...in the blink of an eye...It will all be over!

Asaph says: Now I get it..when I took the time to hear from God and see from HIS perspective..I can see...this won't last!
The words of Paul in Gal: "Be not deceived, God is not mocked...whatever you sow...that is what you reap!"
All it took for Asaph to get perspective was to get alone with God and see from His viewpoint

- **Righteous Rewarded**
~Vs 21-22: When I was feeling like things weren't right: I was just being dumb as a stick!
- ~Vs 23: When I am with you...You hold me up! You sustain me, provide for me, help me, keep me going
- ~Vs 24: You guide me in this life...you tell me how to live...you give me counsel and direction (Better Word!)
And...whats better...when this life is over...you take me to be with you! (This isn't the last word!)
- ~Vs 25: There is nothing in Heaven or Earth that I want besides you God
- ~Vs 26: My flesh and my heart my fail: When I'm not seeing from your perspective, I get confused
But you are the ROCK of my heart! You are what sustains and keeps me going

God, now that I have perspective I totally see things differently. I was confused, I was thinking THIS life was what counted
And, it isn't! They are trading this life...for the One to come!
We have to have the right perspective...and that come from Spending Time With God!
When we do that we see correctly, when we don't we simply don't see correctly!

5. Look At The Conclusion Of The Matter. Vs 27-28

Now that he has had a little "attitude" adjustment, and He has put on His God Glasses...Now Asaph can see clearly!

- Those far from you will perish: They will be done away with! Lit = die *Not just physically, but spiritually*
Lit = to wander and fail or fall, to lose utterly and completely, undone
You only put up with the foolishness for so long, those who are unfaithful will be destroyed
- Those who are NEAR you...It's a good thing! Lit = beautiful, bountiful, gracious, kind, merciful, place of favor
Place of joy, place of prosperity and peace

You are my refuge: God, I don't need to understand...don't need to see the outcome...I just need YOU!!!

CONCL: It is a struggle we all have: Just this week I was talking with someone, asked what I was preaching about
They said, That's my extended family: They live as if God isn't there...Lie, Cheat, Steal, Ridicule Me
And everything seems to go their way, while I'm trying to live to honor God...it's a battle every day!

Things To Live By!

1. Don't be discouraged...Don't Quit doing the right thing. (That's from the Devil!)
2. Stay close to God...He will give you the right perspective: (Got to be with Him...otherwise glasses get fogged!)
3. Don't just simply by THIS timeframe: This isn't real life! (Girls in HS: All things so important)
4. Allow God to strengthen your heart: It IS hard...when you see it...But God will sustain you
Worship, Pray, Study, Serve...TRUST GOD
5. Wait for the final Outcome: Now we see darkly...Then...We will see clearly...
It will All Be Different