

A Love Song to God

Psalm 73:21-28

INTRO:

Tonight we will be exploring the end of **Psalm 73**. **Psalm 73** is a song written when the Psalmist was wrestling with his own heart. In a weak moment, he spouted off to God about how the wicked seem to prosper and the righteous suffer. When we get to **verse 21**, we find the Psalmist reconsidered his first view point and now confessed to God the problem with his heart and reasserting his love for God.

I. My Mistaken Thinking (v. 21-22)

II. My Wonderful God (v. 23-27)

I. My Mistaken Thinking (v. 21-22)

A. The Psalmist began his statement of repentance to God by admitting sin when he charged God with being unfair to the righteous.

1. He wrote, ***“Thus my heart was grieved, and I was vexed in my mind.”***

His heart was filled with bitterness, he was not thinking straight and his heart was pierced with hurt and wrong thoughts.

2. He recognized he was doing exactly what another Psalmist instructed him not to do.

Psalm 37:1 ***“Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.”***

We are so prone to think this way. The Psalmist repeats this admonition later in **Psalm 37:7**.

“Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.”

B. In (v.22) our Psalmist described how he saw himself now that he came to himself. ***“I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You.”***

In effect, he says, when I said words like

vs.12-14 ***“Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase in riches. Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued and chastened every morning,”***

I was being an absolute idiot. I deserve to be put on a chair in the corner with a dunce cap on! I was as stubborn and unreasonable as a mule. I was being stupid, Lord. I am totally responsible for my thinking, and I was completely wrong. There is great virtue in confessing our stupidity to God. One thing it does is deter us from making the same mistake again!

II. My Wonderful God (v. 23-27)

A. The Psalmist now told us about His wonderful God. After confessing his own idiocy, he now thinks about God's infinite faithfulness to him in the midst of his defection. The Psalmist wrote,

v.23 *“Nevertheless I am continually with You. You hold me by my right hand.”*

1. In effect, the Psalmist says, *“Although I blew it, God, you are still with me!”* The LORD was near him because God held on to him and would not let him go!

2. This truth is expressed in **Psalm 37:23, 24**

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; For the LORD upholds him with His hand.”

Nevertheless, I am continually with you, Lord, but that is only because of your omnipotent grasp on me. You did not let me go.

B. (v. 24) Not only did the LORD hold him and would not let him go, God will never let go.

“You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.”

1. While some folks do not believe that God actively leads us in this present life. Listen to just a few examples of verses that speak of His leading.

Psalm 48:14 *“For such is God, our God forever and ever; He will guide us until death.”*

Again in **Psalm 27:11** the Psalmist prays,

“Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies.”

Perhaps the most famous passage is

Proverbs 3:5-6 *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”*

He is going to make the paths of our lives go the direction He wants them to go!

2. He will always guide us and finally He will take us to be with Him. The word translated *“receive”* in our text, could be better translated *“take.”* The Psalmist looked through the eyes of faith all the way to the end of the path God set before him. At the end of the road is the “Celestial City” where we shall ever be with the Lord.

C. **Verse 25** says,

“Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.”

1. What will make heaven, heaven? In his great Psalm he wrote the same thought that a more contemporary song writer wrote: *“God and God alone/ will be the joy of our eternal home/ He will be our one desire/ our hearts will never tire/ of God and God alone!”* The Psalmist did not hope to gain in eternity mansions, or rewards, or crowns. All that mattered is that God will be there.

2. No longer is he concerned about the present blessings of those who prosper. Now the only God and God alone. We grow in our relationship with the Lord so that the joys and blessings fade in the face of the blessing of simply being with Him, we have achieved a marvelous level in our spiritual growth. The writers of the Scripture hold this before us often as the goal that we need to shoot for!

Hebrews 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*

God wants us to be God - seekers. He wants us to become a people who want nothing more than to be with Him!

The Psalmist exhorts us,

Psalm 105:3-4 *“Glory in His holy name; let the heart of those who seek the LORD be glad. Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face continually.”*

D. The reality of **verse 26** must become real in our lives.

“My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

E. He sums up everything in the last verse.

v.28 *“But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all Your works.”*

The ultimate good in our lives is to draw near to God. It should be the daily goal in our lives. The real question this asks us is how active are we in doing this today?

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus