

God Speaks About Doubt

Psalm 73

Introduction

AA. Isaiah 55:6-9

BB. Jeremiah 29:11-13

This psalm is divided into three parts.

Vs. 1-3-the problem

vs.4-16-the struggle

Vs. 17-28-the victory

We have all asked that same question, “Why do the evil people get away with murder while the good people suffer?” Pay particular attention how God responds to not only Asaph’s frustration and doubt, but to ours also. Doubt is a very common theme throughout the bible

I. The Problem Psalm 73:1-3

1A. Read Psalm 73:1-3 The psalm is typical of Hebrew poetry. It begins with a generalization or a summary statement, which is also really the conclusion, and then goes on to elaborate on the problem. At the end of this psalm we will see if the opening statement matches his concluding statement.

1B. Matt. 5:8- To whom is God good?

2. There was a time when Asaph doubted the goodness of God. What was the reason for his doubts?

3. Name an example of when you have seen how some people seem to prosper in spite of questionable ethics. How does that make you feel?

II. The Struggle Psalm 73:4-16

4. A. Read Psalm 73:4-9

In his disappointment with God’s rule, the psalmist could not “see straight”. He was very confused by the prosperity of the wicked. How does he describe the status of the wicked?

5. What is the attitude of the wicked towards others?

6. A. Read Psalm 73:10-12

How do people react toward the wicked?

7. How does Asaph further describe the life of the wicked?

8. Read Psalm 73:13-16

Why does Asaph feel his godly life was in vain?

9. In verse 15 the psalmist says that although he had these doubts, he kept them to himself. When is it wise NOT to talk about your doubts to others?

10. What was it that troubled Asaph?

III. The Victory

11. A. Read Psalm 73:17

11. B. Read Psalm 46:10

11. The word *till* indicates a turning point for the psalmist's dilemma.

Where was he when the solution came to him?

12 Read Psalm 73:18-20

12. In these verses how did Asaph's perspective change? Did Asaph get a rational explanation from God?

13. What was the actual situation with the wicked?

14. Read Psalm 73:21-26

Looking back on it, how does Asaph describe his period of doubt?

15. A Read Isaiah 41:10

15. B. John 10:27—28

15C. Psalm 32:8

15. What important truth did Asaph learn about God which helped him to look beyond the circumstances of the world?

16. A. Matthew 28:19b

What is promised to those who are with God now?/ Afterwards?

17. What will happen to those far from God?

18. What was the story the writer had to tell?

19. Look back at verse 1 and the last verse. What do you observe?

T-Turn to God's Word

R-Review your life history

U-Unwrap your real motives

S-Soak up the situation with prayer

T-Take a step of faith because of God's faithfulness in the past.

Other resources:

Hymn: "What a Friend We have in Jesus" Hymn 770

"Footprints in the Sand" by Carolyn Joyce Carty

References

CPH Bible Study on the Psalms

Daily Study Bible Series by Goerge A.F. Knight

Footprints In The Sand

Author: Carolyn Joyce Carty

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed
he was walking along the beach with the LORD.

Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene he noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand: one belonging
to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of
his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very
lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he
questioned the LORD about it:

"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow
you, you'd walk with me all the way.

But I have noticed that during the most
troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.

I don't understand why when
I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child,
I love you and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."

Please use your Bible for the readings from Psalm 73. Other references are listed below.

AA>Isaiah 55:8-9

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

BB>Jeremiah 29:11-13

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

1 B> Matthew 5:8

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

11B>Psalm 46:10

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

15A>Isaiah 41:10

fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

15B>John 10:27-28

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

15C>Psalm 32:6

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

16A. > Matthew 28:19b

"And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."