I'VE BEEN THERE TOO

PSLAMS 73

I want us by the help of the Holy Spirit this morning take a journey with Asaph. I believe that we can identify with him this morning in this Psalm. Asaph was a Levite, a leader and founder of one of David’s temple choirs. He wrote 12 of the 150 Psalms we know as the Hebrew hymnbook.

I. SOLID GROUND OF A HOLY PRECEPT…v. 1…God is good!

*The Principles that Comforted Him

- God blesses His people
- God blesses the pure

A. He learned these principles from Education

He had been taught that God is good. He had been taught that the Lord is nothing but good.

B. He learned these principles from Experience
He had no doubt experienced in his own life the goodness of God.

II. SLIPPERY GROUND OF HUMAN PERSPECTIVE…vs. 2-16

*The Problem that Confounded Him

- He had a vision problem
- He had a values problem

…He was confounded by the fact that the wicked were seemingly prospering and the godly were suffering!

…He was confounded by the fact that God who is good was allowing the righteous to suffer and the wicked to seemingly be blessed.

- He questioned the goodness of God
- He questioned the government of God

…Asaph is saying I see God’s people suffer, I see God’s people tried. Then, I see the godless prosper this puzzles me, it is hard for me to understand.

…HAVE YOU EVER BEEN THERE?

- It can happen when we face the storms of life
- It can happen when we face the struggles of life
- It can happen when we face various situations in life
- It can happen in the trials, troubles, and temptations of life

*ILL…J. Vernon McGee

The first commentaries that I ever purchased as a young Christian was J. Vernon McGee’s. I remember buying them at Lanham’s bookstore because they were like a $1.50 and $2.00 a piece. I did not know then but surely the Lord was guiding me. Those commentaries were filled with truth from the pen of a great preacher of the Word. The Lord allowed me to glean great truth from the writings of Dr. McGee. In his commentary on this Psalm, Dr. McGee wrote these words…”

It was brought home to me when our first child was born. In the hospital God took that child. I only heard the cry of that little one. All she ever did in her life was cry. I shall never forget the day she died. Across the hall from where my wife was, there was a very wealthy couple that has a baby boy. All their rich friends came to celebrate with them. As I drove into the parking lot in my
They went into the hospital with their champagne and celebrated the birth of that baby boy. I went out on a balcony that was there and cried out to God. To this day I do not know why God took my little girl and left that little boy. BUT I KNOW THE ONE WHO DOES! He has told me to walk with Him by faith. He tests me by putting me in the dark. It is then that I must reach out my hand and take His. In His word He tells that I can trust Him. Someday in a better land He will explain the WHYS of life to me?

…Asaph was confounded by the…

1. *The Prosperity of the Sinner*…v. 3
2. *The Peace of the Sinner*…v. 4
3. *The Pleasure of the Sinner*…v. 5
4. *The Pride of the Sinner*…vs. 6-11
5. *The Progress of the Sinner*…vs. 12-16

When Asaph took this all in it caused him to become bitter in heart. He was ready to quit, he felt like hanging it up.

…ASAPH MAKES A TRIP TO THE SANCTUARY OF GOD…He talked with the Lord and the Lord talked with Him! He leaves the slippery ground of Human Perspective and now stands on SURE GROUND OF A HEAVENLY PERCEPTION!

III. SURE GROUND OF A HEAVENLY PERCEPTION…vs. 17-28

*The Perception that Corrected Him*

**A. He saw the Future of the Sinner**

He learned that the unsaved may have the best here. They may live it up and enjoy life to the fullest but it is only temporal. When breath leaves their body they will open their eyes in a Christ less hell.

- If you are here this morning lost and die in that condition this world is the only Heaven that you will know.

- Dear friend, if you are lost today you are living on borrowed time. One day the clock will run out on you and you will lift your eyes in Hell.

- Is that what you really want?

- It don’t have to end that way…Jesus died on the cross that you could escape hell…you can
be saved today!

B. He saw the Foolishness of His Self…vs. 21-22

We like Asaph have been there!

- God doesn’t care…I Peter 5:7
- God doesn’t hear…Jeremiah 33:3
- God is not even there…Hebrews 13:5

C. He Saw the Fullness of the Savior…vs. 23-28

1. The Presence of God…v. 23

2. The Protection of God…v. 24

3. The Person of God…vs. 25-26

4. The Perception of God…vs. 27-28