



Israel's Greatest Hits

When Nothing Seems Fair

Psalm 73

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • June 9 & 10, 2012 • Psalms Series • CD 12-20

A PSALM OF ASAPH.

1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. **2** But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. **3** For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ...
... **12** Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. **13** All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. **14** For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning. **15** If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children. **16** But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, **17** until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. **18** Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. **19** How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors! **20** Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms. **21** When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, **22** I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you. **23** Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. **24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. **25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. **26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. **27** For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you. **28** But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works. (ESV)

1. Get _____ (vv.1-14)

2. Acquire _____ (vv.15-20)

3. Tune _____ (vv.21-28)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others. For more information about small groups at Compass Bible Church that utilize these questions as the basis for their weekly discussion, please call the church office at (949) 540-0699 or email us at SmallGroups@CompassChurch.org.

1. Read **Psalm 73:12-14**. Even though you may be convinced it is not true, what are some of the situations you encounter that make you *feel* the feelings the psalmist expresses in these verses?
2. Read **1 Peter 2:20-23** and **Hebrews 12:3**. What were some of the most notable moments of restraint and trust that Christ demonstrated during his earthly ministry when he was unfairly and unjustly treated?
3. Read **2 Thessalonians 1:4-10**. While God's judgment on unrepentant sinners is unpleasant to consider, how does a reminder of it help you to keep doing what is right, especially when you are under attack?
4. Read **Matthew 5:10-12**. What are some of the situations in your life that reflect the truth of this passage? How does your identification with the prophets of the Old Testament keep you from retaliation?
5. Read **Psalm 16:8-11**. What are some of the oft-overlooked benefits of God's love and loyalty to you?

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Though the Bible) for schedule prompts.

June 10th

2Chr.32-33 & Jn.18:24-40

June 11th

2Chr.34-36 & Jn.19:1-22

June 12th

Ezra 1-2 & Jn.19:23-42

June 13th

Ezra 3-5 & Jn.20

June 14th

Ezra 6-8 & Jn.21

June 15th

Ezra 9-10 & Ac.1

June 16th

Neh.1-3 & Ac.2:1-13

June 17th

Neh.4-6 & Ac.2:14-47

Audio and video recordings of today's sermon will be available on the Compass Bible Church website (CompassChurch.org). The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

CD # 0923 – **Experiencing the Hope of Faith**

CD # 0638 – **Acquiring Strength & Stamina from an Omnipotent God**

CD # 1023 – **Perspectives on Fairness, Justice & Grace**

CD # 1108–1111 – **Enemies, Grace & Revenge** (a 4-part series on handling opposition)

CD # 1015–1021 – **When Life is Tough** (a 7-part series on our response to suffering)

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Archer, Gleason. **The Book of Job**. Baker Books, 1982.

Barnett, John. **Living Hope for the End of Days: 365 Daily Devotionals from the Book of Revelation**. BFM Books, 2006.

Carson, D. A. **How Long O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil**. Baker Books, 1990.

Elliot, Elisabeth. **A Path Through Suffering**. Servant Publications, 1990.

Ferguson, Sinclair B. **Deserted by God? Hope in Troubled Times**. Banner of Truth, 1996.

Guinness, Os. **God in the Dark: The Assurance of Faith Beyond a Shadow of Doubt**. Crossway Books, 1996.

Hutchinson, John. **Thinking Right When Things Go Wrong: Biblical Wisdom for Surviving Tough Times**. Kregel, 2005.

Lewis, C.S. **The Problem of Pain**. Macmillan Publishing, 1962.

McGrath, Alistair. **Suffering & God**. Zondervan, 1995.

Piper, John and Justin Taylor. **Suffering and the Sovereignty of God**. Crossway Books, 2006.

Poole, Garry. **How Could God Allow Suffering and Evil?** Zondervan, 1998.

Pritchard, Ray. **An Anchor for the Soul: Help for the Present, Hope for the Future**. Moody Press, 2000.

Swindoll, Charles. **Hope Again**. Word Publishing, 1996.

Wiersbe, Warren, ed. **Classic Sermons on Suffering**. Kregel Publishing, 1984.

Wilson, Doug. **Joy at the End of the Tether: The Inscrutable Wisdom of Ecclesiastes**. Canon Press, 1999.