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Wednesday, September 15, 2021

When You Get a Raw Deal

Psalm 73

Intro: What do you do when your theology clashes with your reality? How do you hold to the conviction that God is good when life stinks? I want to talk to us about the hardest, painful, worst days of your life – when you're the victim of your verdict...the things that go unsaid about our struggles, our depressions, when we feel alone and have no remedy or revelent answers... To help us, let's look at Asaph's raw deal.

1. Don't Slip into Society – vs 2: *"But as for me, my feet almost slipped; my steps nearly went astray!!"*

- a. Avoid popular opinions – whose report will you believe?
- b. Don't let the government govern your life Isaiah 9:6
- c. Don't be conformed (molded) to the world Romans 12:2
- d. Be separated from unclean things 2 Corinthians 6:14
- e. Don't be a friend with the word 'sin' James 4:4

2. Avoid the Success of the Secular - vs 3: *"For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked"*

- a. Asaph's focus was on the wrong people. Psalm 1
- b. Don't live for a lifestyle; let your lifestyle live in you!!
- c. Know the difference between Godly wisdom and worldly wisdom.
 - *Godly wisdom – consists of faithfulness, God-fearing, humility, peace, considerate*
 - *Worldly wisdom – no fear of the Lord, produced by false faith and practice*

3. Don't Stray from the Sanctuary – vs. 16-17: *"When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me till I entered the sanctuary of God, then I understood their end"*

- a. Stay in God's house (church) Hebrews 10:24-25
- b. Stay in God's hand (will of God) 1 Peter 5:6
- c. Stay in God's heart (ways of God) Proverbs 23:26
- d. In times like these, don't drift from the Church (the body of Christ)
 - i. Stay with the Saints Ephesians 4:16
 - ii. Stay motivated in ministry Jeremiah 3:15
 - iii. Pray for, listen to, and love your Pastor Hebrews 13:17