



Wrestling with Envy and Doubt. PSALMS 73 PART 5 NOAH LARGENT 10/6/13

Psalm 73:2 But as for me, I came so close to the edge of the cliff! My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.

Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure. ² But as for me, I came so close to the edge of the cliff! My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. ³ For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.

Envy: 1. A feeling of discontented or resentful longing aroused by someone else's possessions, qualities, or luck.

The Danger of being ENVIOUS

1. Envy tells us that the grass is greener on the other-side, which robs us of our ability to enjoy what we already have.
2. Embracing envy leads us to believe that we know better than God what we ought to have.

I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. ⁴ They seem to live such a painless life; their bodies are so healthy and strong. ⁵ They aren't troubled like other people or plagued with problems like everyone else. ¹² This is what the wicked are like—always carefree, they increase in wealth. ¹³ Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. ¹⁴ All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning. ¹⁶ *When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me.*

The "wicked":
verses 6-9;
proud & violent, over indulgent, malicious, arrogant, making threats & they are blasphemous.

Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own. - Harold Coffin

Observations about doubts:

1. We don't have to suppress them or pretend they don't exist.
2. There is a lot at stake, so don't give up on looking for answers.

Confronting Envy & Doubt:

1. He finds truth in the Sanctuary.

¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

2. He confesses his foolishness.

²² I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.

3. He takes advantage of God's help.

²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

4. He commits to sharing what he has learned.

²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

*"If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts; but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end in certainties."
-Francis Bacon, The Advancement Of Learning*

Notes:
