

Tears In A Bottle

(Psalm 73:1-28)

- Introduction:
1. Faith is frequently taken to the edge in this world in which we live.
 2. Stress, heartache, loss, illness, and death all challenge our faith at a very personal level.
 3. There are times when we all, because of the moral and physical evil we see around us, are forced to ask the question, “why?”
 4. If there is a God of maximal power, goodness, and love who is sovereign over this universe, why do things like these happen?
 5. These are the questions about which, Asaph, the writer of the 73rd psalm, wrote.

I. Asaph’s Spiritual Position And Problem

- A. Asaph was deeply troubled and offended by the suffering of saints and the success of sinners.
- B. So troubled was he that he almost loses his faith (73:2-3).

II. The Reason For Asaph’s Problem

- A. Asaph records for us, two reasons that almost drove him over the edge (73:3).
 1. His emotional reaction – envy.
 - a. He was honest enough to admit that he had been affected by envy.
 - b. He was bothered that others were living normal, even prosperous lives while he was suffering.
 - c. It isn’t hard to envision the cry of the martyred saints (Rev. 6:10).
 2. A limited understanding of how injustices will be resolved.
 - a. Asaph had his theology all figured out: The wicked deserve punishment while the righteous deserve peace.
 - b. But what he saw in life could not be harmonized with his theology (73:4-14).
 - c. The reason? – His theology was wrong.
 - d. Most people who loose their footing, along with their faith hold this false belief about justice.

III. The Solution To Asaph’s Problem

- A. Asaph’s resolution came about when he moved from his short-sighted view of God, suffering, and justice, and viewed it all through the eyes of eternity.
- B. (Psalm 73:17-19).
- C. While at one point in his life, he was ready to give up on God (73:1-14), he ultimately finds the answer in the context of God and eternity (73:21-24).

- Conclusion:
1. When evil seems to flourish all around us; when our faith is shaken by heartache, pain, despair, and illness, move closer to God and view things in light of eternity.
 2. Don’t forget the nature of the God you serve (Psalm 56:8).