

Lesson 4
Psalm 73

Read Psalm 73:1-14

1. Asaph states honestly that he was envious of the wicked. Recall or listen to Giorgio's teaching on the dichotomy between "the righteous" and "the wicked" in his September 10 lecture. Who are the righteous, and who are the wicked?

2. Apply Asaph's brutal honesty to your own heart. Who do you envy, and why? If not in the present, consider a time in the past when you've struggled with envy.

3. What question(s) does Asaph's envy lead him to ask in his heart? What question(s) does your envy lead you to ask?

Read Exodus 20:17, Proverbs 14:30, Proverbs 27:4, and James 3:16.

4. a. How does Scripture treat the desire for what someone else has?

b. In your mind, do you take envy as seriously as scripture does? How does it sit with you that envy (covetousness) is forbidden by one of the Ten Commandments, and that it is described as leading to rot and more dangerous than wrath?

5. Read the following passages and consider how they relate to envy or comparison.
- a. Genesis 3:1-5

b. John 21:21-22

Read Psalm 73:15-28.

6. In the second half of this Psalm, we see Asaph reflecting after change has occurred in his heart. By what means did that change come about?

7. How does Asaph describe God's posture toward him?

8. This psalm concludes that it is good to be near God. How do you personally pursue nearness? Are there any steps you'd like to take to grow in this area?