

WHEN LIFE SEEMS UNFAIR

1 Pet 2:21 - 25

NOTE: Many use the CLEAR WORD - Jack Blanco's paraphrase of Scripture ...

- At times ... **I've** struggled w/ my faith ... especially **when life seems unfair**
 - Experts assert this is what inspired "**AY-saf**" - to write the **73rd** Psalm ...
 - He was a Levite who was in charge of music at the Tabernacle ... before Solomon built the Temple
 - He wrote several psalms: # 50 and 73 → 83
 - 73rd Psalm shows us 4 actions to emulate when we see **life as unfair**

ADMIT OUR PERPLEXITY

- **V 1** states an underlying assertion most are very comfortable with ... [**righteous**]
 - But like **AY-saf** ... we often wonder why God doesn't do something when non-believers are *getting ahead* in this world
 - Many find it perplexing to see selfish ~ immoral people being successful ... especially when good people are experiencing adversity
 - **Vs 2, 3**
- Seeing the prosperity of evil people violates a fundamental expectation most of us hold: the **Good** should be rewarded - and the **Wicked** should be punished [**P**]
 - But with prayerful reflection ~ we begin to realize that's not the real issue ...
 - Maybe like **AY-saf** ... we have become **envious** ~ **jealous**
 - He also bears a grudge against God for allowing such a situation to exist in the first place ...
- **AY-saf** tells us what he observes about the wicked: **Vs 4 – 11**
 - The wicked seem to **thrive on pride** – they dismiss God from their lives ... and God's Children often find that very troubling
 - Especially in light of how "they're getting ahead" **V 10**

- Have you ever felt like **AY-saf** ... wondering **if** trying to live God's Way is worth it?
 - Apparently a companion of **Paul** let *the prosperity of the wicked* get to him
 - **2 Tim 4:10** [1254]
- God inspired the 73rd Psalm ... because He knew we all could feel like **AY-saf**
 - The **important thing** to notice is this ~~ **AY-saf** is honest about his perplexity and questions God's fairness
 - We all have wondered **why** God allows bad things ~ *terrible things* ~ happen to good people
 - First step in dealing w/ this issue is to be honest – and tell God how we feel ... to go ahead and ask Him our question
 - A Biblical example of someone being **angry** at God: **Hab 1:13** [yellow]
 - Habakkuk is mad with God when He allows the wicked Babylonians to defeat the righteous Judah ... so he questions God's about it
 - We too can be honest with God ... He **knows** anyway !!
- **God is big enough** to deal w/ any question from of His Children ~ **He answers:**
 - **Ish 55:8, 9** [752] *explaining driving to a cockroach doesn't make sense*
 - **Ish 1:18**
 - **Invitation** reveals an *attractive aspect of God's* character
 - **God wants** to help His children grow and become mature
 - Our Creator designed our minds ... **He knows** questions are a great way to gain deeper insights and grow ~~ both mentally and spiritually

TRANS: When life seems unfair ~ we **first** should admit our perplexity. **Then:**

ACQUIRE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

- Let's see what is recorded in - **Psm 73:16, 17**
- **Please notice** ~ the Psalmist **only** understands the difficulties of life when he's where **Bible Truth** is presented
 - So ... he put himself in God's frame of mind ~ he tried to see things from God's point of view
 - As a pastor - my focus is to share what the **Bible teaches** ... it helps us all to get closer to God ~ and to see life from **His** perspective
- In contrast ... resentment - envy often result when we use the **World's** perspective
 - Because we begin to evaluate our life based on how the world defines success
 - *Satan is the Prince of this World*
- When we leave God ... we've forgotten the words of **Jesus** - **Matt 6:19-21** [962]
 - We **choose** which is more important: treasure on earth or treasure in Heaven
- When we see things from God's perspective ~ we come to realize what's recorded in **Psm 73:18, 19**
 - When we comprehend things like God - we'll see the final destiny of the wicked
 - And ... the Holy Spirit will help us to be mindful of - **Ps 37:1, 2** [611]
- When we see things from God's perspective ~ we will better understand **Psm 73:27**
 - When we view things from God's perspective ... we realize life **isn't** fair and that's why there's a **Heaven**
 - We'll realize the wicked, who are having a good time now, are headed for disaster ... much like the people on the **Titanic**
 - **Ship received 6 warnings of the ice ahead ... still sank**

TRANS: When life seems unfair ~ we should admit our perplexity to God ...
~ we should acquire God's perspective ... **Then:**

ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S PRESENCE

- After **AY-saf** acquired God's perspective ... he acknowledges God is indeed with him and always will be ~ **Psm 73:23**
 - As we grow in our relationship w/ Jesus and get to this **same** point ~ we'll better understand our true blessings ... regardless of our circumstances
 - Jesus tried to teach His 1st Century Disciples this ... **Mark 8:36** [1017]
 - As **AY-saf** remembers these truths @ God's presence ... things get better: **Psm 73:24**
 - Not only do we enjoy God's presence as we live our present life ~ but also forevermore in the life to come
 - The most important thing in this life is **knowing Jesus** as a personal Savior ...
 - ... this allows us to experience God moment by moment as the Holy Spirit fills our hearts
 - When this is true in our life ... then we too can say - **V 25**
 - In the final analysis ... **all that really matters is being with God**
 - Some have learned - He may be all they have ...
 - ... good thing is - **He's all we need**
 - **1 Tim 6:6 – 10** [1249]
 - Only thing we'll take with us into eternity is our character ... the development of which is completely dependent upon our relationship with God
 - This is the very reason that **AY-saf** concludes with - **Psm 73:28**
 - Life is sometimes so unfair ... I suggest it's **exactly then** we should **choose** to be near God
 - When we decide to draw near to God through prayer ~ Bible Study ~ and regular attendance at church ...
 - ... **James 4:8** promises God will draw near to us
- TRANS:** When life seems unfair ~ we should **admit** our perplexity to God ...
~ we should **acquire** God's perspective ...
~ we should **acknowledge** God's presence ... **AND:**

ACCEPT GOD'S PARDON

- When life is unfair ... we can sometimes loose control and do stupid (bad) things
 - I think that's why **AY-saf** wrote - **Psm 73:21, 22**
 - No record of what he said nor did ... we can assume it must have been rather dis-pleasing to God
- When **our hearts** are grieved ... we too can act like a beast
 - When we separate ourselves from God ... we often choose to act poorly
 - When we're there ~ let's remember: **Psm 130:4** [657]

TRANS: When life seems unfair we should:

- 1) **a**dmit our perplexity to God;
- 2) **a**cquire God's perspective;
- 3) **a**cknowledge God's presence; and
- 4) **a**cept God's pardon