

THE CERTAIN CURE FOR ENVY

Psalm 37:12-26

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READ Psalm 37

? What is the problem in Psalm 37?

INTRODUCTION: THE SKILL OF WAITING

A milestone in your walk with Jesus is gaining the ability to do nothing when you could easily do something. The Bible calls it waiting.

Exodus 14:13, 14

But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will perform for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again, ever. The Lord will fight for you, while you keep silent."

Isaiah 64:4

For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear,
Nor has the eye seen a God besides You,
Who acts in behalf of one who waits for Him.

Proverbs 20:22

Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the Lord, and He will save you.

The unfaithful are unwilling to wait for God to work. They turn to other things that might solve their problems.

? How do you sit back and wait for God to work?

The key to waiting is simple. Know God.

Psalm 37:12-26 teaches us three truths about God that make it possible, even desirable to wait rather than act for ourselves.

I. THE MASTER SEES THE END OF THE WICKED, VV. 12-15

A. THE MASTER SEES

1. The Pride Of The Wicked
2. The End Of The Wicked

Proverbs 16:4

The Lord has made everything for its own purpose,
Even the wicked for the day of evil.

B. THE ARMS OF THE WICKED WILL BE BROKEN, v. 17a

1. The Wicked Will Perish, v. 20a
2. The Wicked Will Vanish Like Grass And Smoke, v. 20b
3. The Cursed Will Be Eliminated, v. 22b

II. YAHWEH CARES FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE MOST NEEDED, VV. 16, 17

? Why is the little better than abundance?

? How does God work that out?

A. YAHWEH SUSTAINS THE RIGHTEOUS, v. 17b

He will give you all you need to survive on this earth.

Matthew 6:25ff.

B. HE KNOWS (CARES FOR) THE DAYS OF THE BLAMELESS, vv. 18, 19

1. The Righteous Have Plenty Now And Forever

- a. Their inheritance is forever
- b. They will not be ashamed in evil days
- c. They have plenty in days of famine

2. The Righteous Is Gracious And Gives, v. 21b

Psalm 112:5

It goes well for a person who is gracious and lends; He will maintain his cause in judgment.

Proverbs 11:24

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

III. YAHWEH ESTABLISHES YOUR STEPS, VV. 23-26

Proverbs 20:24

A man's steps are ordained by the Lord;
How then can a person understand his way?

(Proverbs 16)

He realizes that God establishes his steps for a good end. (Romans 8:29)

? Where does this delight come from?

A. THE LORD HOLDS HIS HAND

B. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE NEVER FORSAKEN

C. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

1. All Day Long He Is Gracious And Lends

2. His Descendants Are A Blessing

CONCLUSION:

It is far better to wait for the Lord to work than to work on your own. The vengeance of the Lord against the evildoer is more thorough and just than your revenge could be. The blessings of the Lord are more fulfilling and lasting than what you can provide for yourself.

Psalm 46:10

"Stop striving and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted on the earth."