

Series: Promises God Made and Did Not Make
February 2, 2020 Adam Donyes
When Evil People Succeed

We have all seen that good things happen to bad people. It seems that there is no immediate justice for evil. In this context, we are challenged to consider Psalm 73.

Written by Asaph, a minister and musician in the temple, he talks to God about his frustration over this conundrum.

Discussion: As you read the first few verses, of Psalm 73, where was Asaph when he began to find the answers to his questions about this issue?

Discussion: As you continue through the rest of the chapter, share how at various times in your life (perhaps even now?) you have had the same feelings Asaph had as he reflected on life as he saw it. How do envy and jealousy blind and rob us of the blessings God has for us?

Discussion: As we, with the Psalmist, consider the end of those who walk an evil path, how does it remind us to live a life of integrity? Share an example of those who have lived what appears to be an envious life, that ended in destruction.

The Rope Illustration . . . gave us a view of our 80-90 years and how short that is in light of eternity. When we focus on this present life and our struggles, we should be reminded of the life ahead unending. A reminder that we should focus on God's presence and the things that really matter. . . our promise of a life with God.

"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

Mark 8:36

Adam reminded us (rather emphatically) that whenever we're tempted to walk down the evil path, we should be reminded of the dead end to which it leads.

As it was Super Bowl Sunday, we were reminded of the Kansas City Chiefs, and the fans looking forward to seeing a win. We saw the star player, many red shirts and donuts. Adam reminded us that the star player, our President, or any other personality is not going to get us to heaven. Our cheers should be for the One who does: Jesus Christ.

"We need not concern ourselves when good things seem to happen to bad people. We only need to keep our focus on our Creator and enter into His presence every day through the portal of His holy Word. There we will find truth, contentment, spiritual riches, and eternal joy." -S. Michael Houdmann