

## Lesson 17 / Psalm 73

### New International Version

#### Psalms 73

**1** Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.  
**2** But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.  
**3** For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
**4** They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.  
**5** They are free from the burdens common to man; they are not plagued by human ills.  
**6** Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.  
**7** From their callous hearts comes iniquity; the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.  
**8** They scoff, and speak with malice; in their arrogance they threaten oppression.  
**9** Their mouths lay claim to heaven, and their tongues take possession of the earth.  
**10** Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance.  
**11** They say, "How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?"  
**12** This is what the wicked are like— always carefree, they increase in wealth.  
**13** Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence.  
**14** All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning.  
**15** If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed your children.  
**16** When I tried to understand all this, it was oppressive to me  
**17** till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.  
**18** Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.  
**19** How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!  
**20** As a dream when one awakes, so when you arise, O Lord, you will despise them as fantasies.  
**21** When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,  
**22** I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.  
**23** Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.  
**24** You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.  
**25** Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
**26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.  
**27** Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.  
**28** But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.

### New Living Translation

#### Psalms 73

**1** Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure.  
**2** But as for me, I came so close to the edge of the cliff! My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone.  
**3** For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.  
**4** They seem to live such a painless life; their bodies are so healthy and strong.  
**5** They aren't troubled like other people or plagued with problems like everyone else.  
**6** They wear pride like a jeweled necklace, and their clothing is woven of cruelty.  
**7** These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for!  
**8** They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others.  
**9** They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth.  
**10** And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words.  
**11** "Does God realize what is going on?" they ask. "Is the Most High even aware of what is happening?"  
**12** Look at these arrogant people— enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply.  
**13** Was it for nothing that I kept my heart pure and kept myself from doing wrong?  
**14** All I get is trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain.  
**15** If I had really spoken this way, I would have been a traitor to your people.  
**16** So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is!  
**17** Then one day I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I thought about the destiny of the wicked.  
**18** Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction.  
**19** In an instant they are destroyed, swept away by terrors.  
**20** Their present life is only a dream that is gone when they awake. When you arise, O Lord, you will make them vanish from this life.  
**21** Then I realized how bitter I had become, how pained I had been by all I had seen.  
**22** I was so foolish and ignorant— I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you.  
**23** Yet I still belong to you; you are holding my right hand.  
**24** You will keep on guiding me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny.  
**25** Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth.  
**26** My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever.  
**27** But those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you.  
**28** But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

## Amplified Bible

### Psalms 73

**1** TRULY GOD is [only] good to Israel, even to those who are upright *and* pure in heart. **2** But as for me, my feet were almost gone, my steps had well-nigh slipped. **3** For I was envious of the foolish *and* arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. **4** For they suffer no violent pangs in their death, but their strength is firm. **5** They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they smitten *and* plagued like other men. **6** Therefore pride is about their necks like a chain; violence covers them like a garment [like a long, luxurious robe]. **7** Their eyes stand out with fatness, they have more than heart could wish; *and* the imaginations of their minds overflow [with follies]. **8** They scoff, and wickedly utter oppression; they speak loftily [from on high, maliciously and blasphemously]. **9** They set their mouths against *and* speak down from heaven, and their tongues swagger through the earth [invading even heaven with blasphemy and smearing earth with slanders].† **10** Therefore His people return here, and waters of a full cup [offered by the wicked] are [blindly] drained by them. **11** And they say, How does God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High? **12** Behold, these are the ungodly, who always prosper *and* are at ease in the world; they increase in riches. **13** Surely then in vain have I cleansed my heart and washed my hands in innocency. **14** For all the day long have I been smitten *and* plagued, and chastened every morning. **15** Had I spoken thus [and given expression to my feelings], I would have been untrue *and* have dealt treacherously against the generation of Your children. **16** But when I considered how to understand this, it was too great an effort for me *and* too painful **17** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood [for I considered] their end. **18** [After all] You do set the [wicked] in slippery places; You cast them down to ruin *and* destruction. **19** How they become a desolation in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors! **20** As a dream [which seems real] until one awakens, so, O Lord, when You arouse Yourself [to take note of the wicked], You will despise their outward show. **21** For my heart was grieved, embittered, *and* in a state of ferment, and I was pricked in my heart [as with the sharp fang of an adder]. **22** So foolish, stupid, *and* brutish was I, and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. **23** Nevertheless I am continually with You; You do hold my right hand. **24** You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to honor *and* glory. **25** Whom have I in heaven but You? And I have no delight *or* desire on earth besides You. **26** My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the Rock *and* firm Strength of my heart and my Portion forever. **27** For behold, those who are far from You shall perish; You will destroy all who are false to You *and* like [spiritual] harlots depart from You. **28** But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God *and* made Him my refuge, that I may tell of all Your works.

## The Message

### Psalms 73

**1** No doubt about it! God is good— good to good people, good to the good-hearted.  
**2** But I nearly missed it, missed seeing his goodness.  
**3** I was looking the other way, looking up to the people  
**4** At the top, envying the wicked who have it made,  
**5** Who have nothing to worry about, not a care in the whole wide world.  
**6** Pretentious with arrogance, they wear the latest fashions in violence,  
**7** Pampered and overfed, decked out in silk bows of silliness.  
**8** They jeer, using words to kill; they bully their way with words.  
**9** They're full of hot air, loudmouths disturbing the peace.  
**10** People actually listen to them—can you believe it? Like thirsty puppies, they lap up their words.  
**11** What's going on here? Is God out to lunch? Nobody's tending the store.  
**12** The wicked get by with everything; they have it made, piling up riches  
**13** I've been stupid to play by the rules; what has it gotten me?  
**14** A long run of bad luck, that's what— a slap in the face every time I walk out the door.  
**15** If I'd have given in and talked like this, I would have betrayed your dear children.  
**16** Still, when I tried to figure it out, all I got was a splitting headache . . .  
**17** Until I entered the sanctuary of God. Then I saw the whole picture:  
**18** The slippery road you've put them on, with a final crash in a ditch of delusions.  
**19** In the blink of an eye, disaster! A blind curve in the dark, and—nightmare!  
**20** We wake up and rub our eyes. . . . Nothing. There's nothing to them. And there never was.  
**21** When I was beleaguered and bitter, totally consumed by envy,  
**22** I was totally ignorant, a dumb ox in your very presence.  
**23** I'm still in your presence, but you've taken my hand.  
**24** You wisely and tenderly lead me, and then you bless me.  
**25** You're all I want in heaven! You're all I want on earth!  
**26** When my skin sags and my bones get brittle, GOD is rock-firm and faithful.  
**27** Look! Those who left you are falling apart! Deserters, they'll never be heard from again.  
**28** But I'm in the very presence of God— oh, how refreshing it is! I've made Lord GOD my home. God, I'm telling the world what you do!