

Specific Questions: Text: Psalm 73

1. What do we (Christians) mean when we say “God is good?” Is that different than what Psalm 73:1 means?
2. Asaph wrestles with why the ungodly seem to “win” or be blessed and the pure in heart seem to get “kicked around.” In addition to the areas of health, and financial prosperity, what other areas present this kind of spiritual quandary?
3. The language of lament follows the pattern: “I’m hurting,” “they’re winning,” “You don’t care.” Have you ever heard someone say “you shouldn’t feel that way”? How would Asaph answer that?
4. Describe a time that you could identify with Tevya in *Fiddler On the Roof*, who asked “would it spoil some vast eternal plan?” (if he were rich, or healthy, or successful).
5. The friends of Job were insistent that he had done something to deserve his calamity. Read Job 1:1,5; 42:7-9. Do those statements, in any way, alter your view of the difficulties you face in life?
6. What is the step that moved Asaph from lament to praise? Why did he *spill so much ink* on his lament, compared to his praise? How is that instructive for us?
7. How does this Psalm and the concept of lament help you create to someone going through a trial or crisis?

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

1. What new concept did you learn from this week’s text?
2. Is there anything in the text that you don’t understand?
3. How does this text challenge you to change? Is there anything standing in your way of making that change?