

## **SOUNDTRACK: Encountering Jesus in the Songs of Scripture**

### **Week 6: Psalm 37**

**Introduction:** How do you feel when bad people succeed or good people suffer? It seems like everywhere we look, people who ignore or deny God seem to enjoy easy lives filled with prosperity and security—often at the expense of others. While billions of the world’s population struggle to survive, it seems as if those in power grow ever richer, virtue is mocked and injustice permeates all levels of society.

If I’m able to withdraw from the chorus of “them” and stop pointing my self-righteous finger for just a moment, I quickly see that there are ways I choose each day to participate in the distorted society of which I am part: seeking self-will, self-power, self-comfort and ease.

God doesn’t easily move to be the big fix for these problems. Rather, He promises to make all things new in Christ and calls us to be faithful to His way in this topsy-turvy world. God is not our cosmic escape plan from trouble. Seeing our relationship with God as such dulls us and often causes us to miss the richness of relationship with God through Christ, which can blossom even in the midst of pain and injustice in our world.

**The Big Picture:** Life in a world thoroughly corrupted by human evil is going to remain difficult and painful. God does not remove us from the pain of living without removing us from life itself. We must then struggle against evil and all of its forms as a way of living faithfully to God who loves us most.

#### **Discussion:**

##### **Share:**

- Describe a time when you were treated unfairly. Did the situation ever balance back to fairness? How did this make you feel?

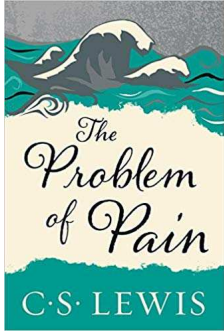
##### **Discuss:**

##### **Sermon Review:**

- Re-read Psalm 37.
- Review the sermon from this week. Write down any questions or thoughts that stand out to you as you review the sermon together. Discuss them as a group. Link: <https://www.cornerstonecrystal.org/messages/>
- What do you think is the greatest injustice in the world today? Why do you think this?
- What would this injustice look like if Jesus made this one thing new?

- How do you sense God wanting you to live in light of this injustice—in other words, what difference do you think you, as a representative of God’s love, can make in this matter?

**Further Exploration on this Topic:**



*The Problem of Pain* by C.S. Lewis

**From the Publisher:** In *The Problem of Pain*, C.S. Lewis, one of the most renowned Christian authors and thinkers, examines a universally applicable question within the human condition: “If God is good and all-powerful, why does he allow his creatures to suffer pain?” With his signature wealth of compassion and insight, C.S. Lewis offers answers to these crucial questions and shares his hope and wisdom to help heal a world hungering for a true understanding of human nature.

Link: <https://www.amazon.com/Problem-Pain-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652969/>