

— Psalm 37 —
The Just King

A Psalm of David.

¹Do not fret because of evildoers,
Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.
²For they shall soon be cut down like the grass,
And wither as the green herb.
³Trust in the LORD, and do good;
Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
⁴Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
⁵Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.
⁶He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light,
And your justice as the noonday.
⁷Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him;
Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.
⁸Cease from anger, and forsake wrath;
Do not fret—it only causes harm.
⁹For evildoers shall be cut off;
But those who wait on the LORD,
They shall inherit the earth.
¹⁰For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more;
Indeed, you will look carefully for his place,
But it shall be no more.
¹¹But the meek shall inherit the earth,
And shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.
¹²The wicked plots against the just,
And gnashes at him with his teeth.
¹³The Lord laughs at him,
For He sees that his day is coming.
¹⁴The wicked have drawn the sword
And have bent their bow,
To cast down the poor and needy,
To slay those who are of upright conduct.
¹⁵Their sword shall enter their own heart,
And their bows shall be broken.
¹⁶A little that a righteous man has
Is better than the riches of many wicked.
¹⁷For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,
But the LORD upholds the righteous.
¹⁸The LORD knows the days of the upright,
And their inheritance shall be forever.
¹⁹They shall not be ashamed in the evil time,
And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.
²⁰But the wicked shall perish;
And the enemies of the LORD,
Like the splendor of the meadows, shall vanish.

Into smoke they shall vanish away.

²¹The wicked borrows and does not repay,
But the righteous shows mercy and gives.
²²For those blessed by Him shall inherit the earth,
But those cursed by Him shall be cut off.
²³The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD,
And He delights in his way.
²⁴Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down;
For the LORD upholds him with His hand.
²⁵I have been young, and now am old;
Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken,
Nor his descendants begging bread.
²⁶He is ever merciful, and lends;
And his descendants are blessed.
²⁷Depart from evil, and do good;
And dwell forevermore.
²⁸For the LORD loves justice,
And does not forsake His saints;
They are preserved forever,
But the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.
²⁹The righteous shall inherit the land,
And dwell in it forever.
³⁰The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom,
And his tongue talks of justice.
³¹The law of his God is in his heart;
None of his steps shall slide.
³²The wicked watches the righteous,
And seeks to slay him.
³³The LORD will not leave him in his hand,
Nor condemn him when he is judged.
³⁴Wait on the LORD,
And keep His way,
And He shall exalt you to inherit the land;
When the wicked are cut off, you shall see it.
³⁵I have seen the wicked in great power,
And spreading himself like a native green tree.
³⁶Yet he passed away, and behold, he was no more;
Indeed I sought him, but he could not be found.
³⁷Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright;
For the future of that man is peace.
³⁸But the transgressors shall be destroyed together;
The future of the wicked shall be cut off.
³⁹But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
He is their strength in the time of trouble.
⁴⁰And the LORD shall help them and deliver them;
He shall deliver them from the wicked,
And save them,
Because they trust in Him.

► This psalm faces head on a perennial challenge that Christians face, and that is the injustice we see when the wicked often _____ and God's people often suffer at their hands.

Psalm 10:2-10 –

*The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor;
Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised.*

*For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire;
He blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD.
The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God;
God is in none of his thoughts.*

*His ways are always prospering;
Your judgments are far above, out of his sight;
As for all his enemies, he sneers at them.
He has said in his heart, "I shall not be moved;
I shall never be in adversity."
His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression;
Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity.*

*He sits in the lurking places of the villages;
In the secret places he murders the innocent;
His eyes are secretly fixed on the helpless.
He lies in wait secretly, as a lion in his den;
He lies in wait to catch the poor;
He catches the poor when he draws him into his net.
So he crouches, he lies low,
That the helpless may fall by his strength.*

► Fretting is what happens when anger boils over into _____.

Romans 12:19 - Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.

James 1:20 - ...the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

Psalm 73:2-3 - But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

► This psalm lays out a list of what we are to _____ be doing instead of fretting or becoming envious of evildoers.

1. We are to _____ in the Lord.

2. We are to do _____.

*Romans 12:21 - Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good**.*

3. We are to dwell in the _____ and feed on God's faithfulness.

4. We are to _____ in the Lord.

*Psalm 42:5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? **Hope in God**, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.*

5. We are to _____ our way to the Lord.

Matthew 11:28 - Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Philippians 4:6-7 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

6. _____ in the Lord

7. Seventh, we are to _____ in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.

Mark 10:15 - Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.

► If there is any man who can teach us how to deal with these kinds of troubles by _____ wholly on the Father by faith, it is the Lord Jesus Himself.

*1 Peter 2:19-24 - For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued **entrusting himself to him who judges justly**. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.*

► Our response to injustice - whether that's the type of injustice that breaks down societies, or the personal injustice that we endure when someone sins against us that breaks down relationships - our response _____ be rooted in the soil of the gospel.

*Matthew 5:5 - Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the **earth**.*

Psalm 2:8 - Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.

1 Corinthians 3:21-23 - For all things are yours: whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come—all are yours. And you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

Hebrews 2:9 - "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, and for the suffering of death was crowned with glory and honor, that He by the grace of God, might taste for everyone."