

Summer In The Psalms

Honest Faith, Deep Worship, Steady Hope

When Life Feels Unfair

Psalm 73



Sermon Notes | Jeff Randleman | September 20, 2026

Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

– Psalm 73:25-26 (ESV)

When We Look Around, Life Can Seem Deeply Unfair (73:1-12)

Asaph's problem was that his faith was being tested by what he saw.

Asaph's struggle came from comparing his life with the lives of others.

Faith does not eliminate the temptation to question God's fairness.

When We Look Within, Envy Can Distort Our Perspective (73:13-16)

Envy causes us to evaluate God's goodness by someone else's circumstances.

Envy makes temporary circumstances look like ultimate reality.

We must be careful not to let our questions become conclusions.

When We Enter God's Presence, Our Perspective Begins to Change (73:17-20)

Worship helps us see life from God's perspective.

God's presence does not always change our circumstances; it changes how we understand them.

The sanctuary gives us an eternal lens for temporary problems.

When We Look Back, We Realize God Has Been Faithful All Along (73:21-26)

God's grace is present even when our perspective is poor.

God guides us even when we do not understand the path.

God himself is better than the blessings we are tempted to envy.

When We Move Forward, We Can Live Faithfully Even in an Unfair World (73:27-28)

Our calling is not to understand every unfair circumstance but to remain faithful in the middle of them.

Nearness to God is the true measure of a successful life.

Our struggles can become a testimony of God's faithfulness.

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Matters for Reflection and Discussion:

1. What circumstances most often tempt you to feel that life is unfair?
2. How can comparing ourselves with others distort our understanding of God's goodness?
3. Why is it significant that Asaph's struggle came from within the faith rather than outside it?
4. Read verse 17. What does this teach us about the importance of worship and God's presence?
5. How does an eternal perspective change the way we view temporary success or suffering?
6. What can we learn about God's character from verses 23-26?
7. Why (or how) is God's presence a more lasting hope than earthly blessings?
8. How can we distinguish between honestly wrestling with God and allowing doubt to become unbelief?
9. What practical steps can you take this week to draw nearer to God when life feels unfair?
10. How might your struggles become an opportunity to testify about God's faithfulness to someone else?