

10 Tips for When Life Is Unfair

Psalm 37 | Mark Foreman | June 19, 2022

The Problem: When Good Things Happen to Bad People - Injustice

- The Background: A wisdom psalm, alphabetic acrostic. Main theme: What do we do when we are treated unfairly? And bad people are thriving?
- The problem: Wrongdoers often seem more successful. (1, 7, 12, 21, 53) The righteous are treated unfairly & misjudged by others, are not given the same opportunities, are not as successful as the wicked.
- We live in this tension – the Messiah has come to forgive but we wait for him to come again to bring ultimate justice. Meanwhile, the real spiritual problem: It is not their success but our temptation to envy, judge, and resent (Ps 73:2 deals with similar issue)
- Don't stop trusting God. Their successes are temporary & superficial.

Ten Tips for Turbulent/Unfair Times

1. **Don't worry.** (1, 7, 8, 12, 14, 21, 32, 35) Fret not: don't get heated, obsessed, angry, worked up. Proverbs 12:25; 24:19. Mat 6:25-34
2. **Stop being angry. Stop stewing.** (8) James 1:20: *man's anger does not bring about the righteous life.*
3. **Don't envy.** (37:1; Prov 23:17; 24:1; 62:8)
4. **Keep trusting the Lord.** (3, 5) Faith cures fretting. We will trust in something. Make the Lord the object of your trust. (Psa 25:2, 62:8)
5. **Keep on doing good (the right thing).** (4, 23)
6. **Bloom where you're planted (dwell in the land)** (3, 1 Tim 6:6)
7. **Enjoy God (delight in Him)** (4, 23) Don't turn and delight, find joy in your opponent's things. After all, the Lord delights in us (149:4).
8. **Commit your path to God (toss it up)** (5, Prov 16:3) lit. "roll" as if to roll away a burden. Leave our vindication with the Judge.
9. **Stop fidgeting (be still) (7)** Be silent. If you have legitimate ways to voice your opinion in kindness, do so. Psa 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God." Release it, with no "yeah, but..."
10. **Wait for it (and keep waiting) (7, 32, 34)** Waiting is not static, it is looking ahead (2, 10). The *wicked* will soon *wither* (2). "Lord laughs" (13, Psa 2) – their day is coming. There is more of the love of God in our defeats than in the successes of the wicked.

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