When Life Doesn't Make Sense

Ken Chapman · Psalm 73:1–28

INTRODUCTION

- Confusion's just a part of life, isn't it? There's so many things that we just simply cannot understand.
- If we're honest about our faith, there are many things about which we do not have sufficient answers when it comes to God and his dealings with man.
- The Psalms are absolutely honest, frankly so, about their relationship with God.

1 Begins and Ends With the Goodness of God

Psalm 73:1; Psalm 73:28

- Truly God is good to Israel, to such as pure in heart.
- But it is good. It is good for me to draw near to God. I have put my trust in the Lord God that I may declare all of your works.
- It's important for us to wrestle with these questions of faith, these doubts that we may have, but to do them in a context of faith.

2 Looking Out the Window at the Prosperity of the Wicked

Psalm 73:2–12

- 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.
- He starts by looking out at the world around him, and he sees it full of wicked evil people, and his observation is they've got it made.
- His first doubt, his first state of confusion circles around what we might call an external or a philosophical question.

3 Looking in the Mirror at His Own Circumstances

Psalm 73:13–16

- Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain and washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued and chastened every morning.
- When I thought of how to understand this, it was too painful for me.
- God is not pleasing me. God is not blessing me. God does not love me. Therefore, God must be unfair. Why, God? I can't understand it.

4 Perplexity Is Not Necessarily Sin

Isaiah 55:8–9; Romans 11:33

- This perplexity, this confusion, our questions and our even doubts are not necessarily sin.

- This perplexity is completely understandable. When we recognize the vast gulf that exists between the mind of God and the minds of even the most brilliant of humans.
- My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
- But start with this premise. He is God. And I am not. I'm never fully going to understand.
- O the depth and the riches, both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God. How unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out.

5 God Endures Our Ignorance

Psalm 73:22–23

- Perplexity isn't necessarily a sin, but as the psalmist warns us here, it can lead us to fall.
- I was foolish and ignorant. I was like a beast before you. Nevertheless, I'm continually with you, and you hold me by my right hand.
- God knows we're ignorant. And he endures that.

6 Two Things That Kept Him From Falling

Psalm 73:15; Psalm 73:25–26; Psalm 73:17

- First of all, it was his dedication to his community of faith.
- If I had said, I will speak thus, behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of your children.
- Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides you.
- His dedication to the community of his faith, the people, but most importantly, his God.
- Until I went into the sanctuary of God, then I understood their end.
- There was not an aha moment necessarily where all of his questions were answered and doubts removed. But there was an oh yeah moment.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Two pieces of advice. Number one, go to the Psalms. And let the Psalms express the feelings of your heart. Second, go to the sanctuary of God. And be reminded, who have I in heaven but you?**

MY NOTES