

## Psalm 37:21-40

### Two Ways and Two Destinies

**Psalm 37 was written by David in his older years.**

A) In this Psalm he is giving advice to his son Solomon about how to handle times when it seems like the wicked are prospering

B) The opening verse of this Psalm gives us the it's heartbeat - **Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.**

C) We noted in our time together last week that David is echoing the sentiment of the prophet Jeremiah - 12:1 **Lord why do the wicked prosper?**

**Sometimes when we look at what is going on in our world - it can feel that way - the wicked - ungodly are getting ahead**

A) David is writing from personal experience - two separate times in his life when this happened.

B) The first took place when he was a young man - around 15 yrs old - the prophet Samuel showed up at his town

1) His house - to anoint one the Sons of a man named Jesse to be the next King in Israel

C) God had grown tired of the rebellion of King Saul - and told Samuel he wanted a king **who was a man after his own heart.**

1) Samuel would find him in Beth. At the home...Jesse

**It was there that God showed Samuel - that the man was the youngest son of Jesse - David - shepherd boy 15 yrs old**

A) Things started off great for David - Victory over the Philistine champion Goliath -

B) Assistant to King Saul - he was a successful military leader -

1) But then Saul - seeing the hand of God on David - became Jealous

C) Saul sought to kill David - David had to flee and become a fugitive, a man on the run

**D) He would spend the next 7-10 yrs on the run living in the wilderness and in caves -**

1) fleeing from King Saul -

E) That was a very difficult time in David's life where he at times wondered if God had really called him....

1) Or was with him.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> time this happened in David's life was when he was an old man -**

A) He had been King for quite some time - when his Son Absalom rebelled against him and plotted a cue

B) David once again had to flee for his life and from his kingdom -

1) His wicked Son assumed the role of King in Israel

**C) Absalom had cleverly won the approval of the people and the leaders and the Military**

1) There was nothing David could do but flee

D) So when David writes Psalm 37 these are not just pithy words that David writes -

1) He is writing from personal experience

**There are two common reactions we can have when it seems like the wicked are advancing?**

A) **One is to Fret** - become fearful - is this every going to stop? - will Justice and righteousness ever win out

B) We see in these first 11 verses that David admonishes us 3X in this Do not Fret V.1 V.7, V.8

C) But another reaction David mentions in V.1 is to become envious -

1) to the point where we are tempted to join them Can't beat em join em

D) If that is the only way to prosper and get ahead in this world - well maybe we just need to do that too!

**Now We noted in our Study last week - David gave 2 ways in which we combat those reactions**

A) **We Look up** - we fix our eyes on the Lord by **Trusting in him V.3 Delighting in him V.4**

B) **Committing our way** or rolling our burdens on to him V.5-6 - And **resting in Him V. 7**

**C) We look up - GO VERTICAL - off of the Horizontal -**

1) We keep our Focus on the Lord

**And we Look ahead:**

A) We have to take the Longview! We have to remember the BIG PICTURE

B) We saw last week how David contrasted the Destinies of the wicked with the Righteous in this Psalm.

C) Let me break it down for you.

**The Destiny of the wicked**

- They shall be cut down and wither away V. 2
- They shall be cut off mentioned 5X-V. 9,10,28,34,38
- They shall destroy themselves V.12-15
- They shall be broken V.17
- They shall perish V.20

**The Destiny of the Righteous**

- They shall be satisfied v.4,25-26
- They shall inherit the earth mentioned 5X V. 9,11,22,29,34
- They shall be upheld by the Lord V.17,
- They shall be protected V.33
- They shall be delivered V.40

D) The Longview for the wicked is not good -

**But the long view of the righteous is BRIGHT**

A) When the Messiah comes all things will be MADE RIGHT!

B) We here at CV most Calvary Chapel Churches are Premillennial in our eschatology - (study of end times events)

C) Premillennial means - we believe in a literal return of Jesus to planet earth.

1) Literal -1,000 year reign of JESUS

**He is coming again and he will overthrow wickedness - he will restore ORDER**

A) He will set up his Kingdom - he will rule and reign on earth

B) He will bring perfect peace and Justice to this planet

C) Jesus is going to restore all things and renew all things to Himself

D) When David says that we are going to inherit the earth -

1) he is primarily saying that we have a role to play in that Kingdom of Jesus

**That is the Longview perspective that the Lord wants us who are the people of God to have.**

A) - Jesus taught us to pray - **Your Kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven**

**B) Lord we are looking forward to your return -**

1) and in the meantime we want to be engaged in the advancing your Kingdom now.

**Now what David didn't understand that we realize now is that there would be 2 comings of the Messiah**

A) First he would come as a lamb - sacrifice for the sins of humanity

B) To restore fallen humanity to God

C) Cross die to pay the price for our sins - make a way forgiveness to happen

1) Three days later rise again - Give life to all who believe

D) That was the purpose of his first coming

**His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming**

A) He comes not as a lamb - but as a Lion as the conquering King

B) He is coming to set up his Kingdom - but an end to wickedness -

1) set up his Kingdom that will have no end

C) The wicked are cut off - **the righteous inherit the earth**

**In light of that contrast in Destinies Today we want to notice - what David does in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this Psalm**

A) He gives instructions for us who are seeking to follow God - concerning our Way, our Walk and our Words

B) THE WAY

21 The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives.

C) **The Wicked are takers** - The wicked are always out for themselves

D) They are looking for ways that they can get ahead and take advantage of others

E) They borrow because they want to get ahead quickly and see borrowing as a short road to success.

1) But they often don't pay off those loans - and sometimes they have no intention to pay them when they take them.

**But the righteous in contrast are GIVERS**

A) God is a giver - Gave us his best - His son!

B) God is Generous in his Grace, Mercy, love - he is a generous giver

C) And he is molding and shaping our hearts to be givers too.

**Jesus would say: It is more blessed to give than to receive**

A) Molding and shaping our hearts to be those who see and experience the great joy of blessing others

B) One of our Core Values here at CV is we believe that we have been blessed to be a blessing.

1) Culture marked by generosity - Lord where can we help

C) This year in 2022 - because of your generosity we were able to help in church in inner city NJ - the hood

1) With the funds to build a youth center where they are ministering to 100's of at risk teens after week

D) Through your generosity we were able to help a church in the inner city Santa Ana - poor place -

1) get new chairs for their sanctuary  
Huge impact in inner city SA

**Through your generosity we were able to build homes for needy families in Mexico**

A) and have seen people in those families come to faith in Jesus

B) Through your ... \$1,000's of displaced pp from Ukraine find safety shelter food - gospel

C) Through your.... we were able to help a church in Italy produce an awesome music CD in Italian for kids

**D) That CD has been distributed to churches all over Italy -**

1) where kids are learning about Jesus through these songs

E) Through your generosity we have been able to help 100's of people in our community who were struggling and in need of food.

**The Way of the righteous is we are to be givers like our heavenly father**

A) Jesus said: We are to Store up treasures in heaven

B) We do that by being givers - generous with our time our talents and our resources

C) So the wicked are takers - the righteous are givers

**THE WALK**

23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, And He delights in his way.

**The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord**

A) When we are trusting delighting - committing - resting -

B) WE ARE putting ourselves in the place to be directed by the Lord

1) We are BECOMING people who are teachable and willing to be led BY THE LORD

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6**

C) Acknowledge = to know his ways - know his heartbeat

**As we are trusting, delighting, committing, Resting - God is going to be directing us.**

A) But notice what David says next - we don't always get it right -

B) **24 Though he fall**, sometimes we fall- sometimes our faith can falter - but notice what David says next **he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholds him with His hand.**

C) This is such a beautiful picture - we fall but we don't fall away - He upholds us - He doesn't forsake us

**Once again David knew this from experience -**

A) There was a time toward the end of those 7-10 yrs living as a fugitive running from King Saul

B) that David had had enough - **BAILED**

1) He literally left Israel and went to go and live with the biggest enemy of Israel -

C) and he pledged allegiance to their King

1) Ultimate in Backsliding - the ultimate in giving up - the ultimate in Lord I can't handle this anymore

**David lived amongst the Philistines for 16 months**

A) During that time no record of him writing a single Psalm - no prayers - no worship

B) Deepest darkest moments in his life - it got so bad that David and his men were literally going to go into battle against Israel

C) He was going to go into battle against Israel - the very people that David was called to lead.

1) Lowest of lows -

**It was during that time that when David was trying to join the army of the enemy and fight against Israel**

A) That the Lord allowed for the Amalekites to invade the village where David and his men were living

B) The Amalekites Burned their houses to the ground and took all their wives and kids captives

C) David's men became so mad at David- they wanted to stone him to death

D) It doesn't get any lower than that - but that is what the Lord used to get David attention -

1) bring him back to his senses

**E) The Lord allowed him to Recover all - head back home to Israel and shortly after that he would become king**

**Our God is a God who loves us -**

A) Even when we stumble and fall or lose our way - he doesn't abandon us - He pursues us/ he upholds us

25 I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread. 26 He is ever merciful, and lends; and his descendants are blessed.

B) David is sharing from personal experience here - Even in the worst times and the most difficult times

1) God's provision was always there

C) This is a verse though that has caused some confusion amongst God's people.

D) Some would say - I have seen the righteous begging -

1) or someone would say I have had times where I had to beg myself

**Again note: David is sharing his experience here - this is a testimony statement - not necessarily a Biblical truth.**

A) God's people will never have to beg for bread.

B) But the Bible does say **Philippians 4:19 that God will provide for all of our needs**

C) We often get our wants and our needs mixed up! - We have wants and we think - I really need that

1) I can't live without that - God is saying yes you can

**This is what I have experienced God is faithful to supply our needs.**

A) What we need is pretty small

B) I have been to many countries - seen great Poverty - Africa/ Central America/ Costa Rica - Mexico

1) Been to war torn countries - where people were really suffering

C) This is what I have discovered - God supplies the needs of His people

**I have met these people who by our standards don't have anything -**

A) Who are eating stuff - most of us would never eat

B) And yet they are the most Joyful, appreciative, grateful, generous lovers and worshippers of God  
1) I have ever met in the world

C) Convicting - I have nothing to complain about - ever again!

D) When you get the chance to walk into that kind of situation it really puts things in perspective

**So the way of the righteous Givers**

A) The Walk - his steps are ordered - and even when he falls God is able to lift him up

B) THE WORDS: V.30

30 The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice.

C) The NLT puts v.30 this way: <sup>30</sup> The godly offer good counsel; they teach right from wrong.

D) V.31 tells us why: The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

**This is what David is telling us about the Godly - not only are our steps marked by the word of God - so are our words.**

A) One of the biggest marks of our maturity in the Lord is when our walk and our words are being formed by the Word of God.

B) The more the word of God gets into us **(not just head but heart)** -

1) the more we are transformed by the renewing of our minds

C) When your heart and mind are being renewed something happens

**Some of us used to say things like - I am going to just give you a peace of my mind.**

A) Something horrible or vicious would come out

B) Jesus said from out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks

1) So when you talk - you are simply revealing what is in your heart - Revealing where your heart is at

**C) So if things like Gossip - Harsh words - anger - have been coming out of your heart this week -**

1) sign - you are in need of more HEART RENEWAL

**But isn't it an awesome thing to experience when you start responding to things differently than you did before.**

A) Instead of giving someone a piece of your mind - you have the mind of Christ toward that person

B) Or a situation where before you would have lashed out - you remain calm -

C) Sign that your life is being molded and transformed by Jesus and it is being illustrated in your words.

**Two reactions**

**RESPONSE TO THESE TRUTHS**

27 Depart from evil, and **do good;**  
And dwell forevermore.

**Don't give into evil - that is the temptation - when it seems like the Lord is delaying**

A) David speaks of experience - he got tired of waiting for the promise and bailed - Philistines

B) Became a different man

**C) During Jesus' movement - The Lord delayed his coming - many walked away**

1) Went back to their old lives

D) many were excited about the coming of the Lord but forgot about the Lord who was coming

**Covid this is too hard -**

A) give up Alcohol - drugs

B) Some of you now going through a tough time - turned Alcohol - drugs

1) Sexual immorality - sometime to numb the pain

**Depart from evil - resist that temptation**

A) David learned the hard way - almost lost everything

**B) Listen to DAVID today - hear God's heart today - you don't have to wait until you lose everything**

**C) One thing that Breaks my heart as a Pastor to see people who ignore the warnings**

**Depart from evil and do good**

**A) A great way to stay on track is to be engaged in the work of the Lord**

**B) Stay focused - being engaged in the work of the Lord - living for the Kingdom**

**First response Depart from evil and do good - dwell**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Response**

**34 Wait on the Lord, And keep His way,  
And He shall exalt you to inherit the land;**

**Paul put it this way:**

<sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.  
Galatians 6:10

**This promise**

<sup>31</sup> But those who wait on the LORD  
Shall renew *their* strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint - Isaiah 40:31