

Prestonwood Connection

Living In The Shadow Of The Almighty #8

Injustice

Psalm 73

Wednesday, October 15, 2003 • Dr. David McKinley

[Dr. McKinley, message *Injustice In The Shadow Of The Almighty*] <316>

Lord that is our desire tonight and so in these moments as we open Your Word, as our hearts have been prepared through praise and worship we pray that we would truly seek You and that we would hear Your voice speaking to our hearts tonight for it is in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen. Amen.

Thank you guys so very much, always encouraging us, always a..., blessing our hearts through your music. A..., you know one of the exercises that has become a..., just a routine part of daily life for many, if not most of us in this room is the process of handling communications in our lives, not only with phones and cell phones and fax machines, but of course with e-mail and a..., I don't know about you but a..., probably in the course of my day I deal with somewhere between a..., 40 and 50 e-mails on a day, on an average. A..., at times it's overwhelming, you know, I walk in and just turn on the computer and there they are, you know and, and a..., probably about 5% of them are things that are really important, that people are depending upon me to respond to with some level of communication and then a whole lot of them are just an assortment of things from lists that I'm on that I wish I weren't and from all those kinds of things that come my way. But a..., you know I understand that prayer of that little boy who when he was tryin to learn The Lord's Prayer and at the end he said:

"Lord deliver us from e-mail."

And I understand that. I feel that from time to time in my life. Maybe you've felt that as well and a..., you struggle with e-mail. But every now and then I get something that a..., sorta brings a smile and a..., warms my heart and a..., just today I had a dad whose daughter is on the a..., 8th grade volleyball team with my daughter here at PCA a..., who sent me a, a little piece of some a..., some Bible knowledge with some spiritual insight and a..., I thought that I would just pass some of this along to you tonight. I thought you might enjoy it as well, might wanna make mention of this or make mark of this.

A..., how many of you in here tonight think that you might know what kind of man Boaz was before he got married? You know in the, in the Bible there was a man by the name of Boaz. Do you know what kind of man he was before

he got married? He was Ruth-less, ruthless, you might wanna write that down, those of you who know about the book of Ruth. [pause for congregation laughter]

And a..., do you know who was the greatest financier in the Bible? It was Noah, he was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation. [more laughter] And a..., so I thought you might enjoy knowin that.

A..., some of you may be interested to know what kind of a..., vehicle transportation they had in the Bible, and a..., of course you're familiar with the camel, with the chariot, but it's interesting to note that a..., the disciples a..., were obviously a..., carried around in a Honda, because the Bible says, they were all in one accord. And so a..., [more laughter]

And then do you know which one of God's servants a..., was the most flagrant, lawbreaker in the Bible? Do you know who was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible? It was Moses, because he broke all 10 commandments at one time, he just, all 10 of em in one minute. [more laughter]

And then a..., which Bible character had no parents? Do you know which Bible character had no parents? It was Joshua the son of Nun, the son of none. [more laughter] and a...

And then just another little trivial things, a..., do you know what they call pastors in Germany? German shepherds, and so a... [more laughter] thought you'd enjoy that.

Oh, well anyway just a little somethin that came my way in one of my many e-mails today and it certainly was on the bright side and I appreciated that a..., and enjoyed it.

Tonight I wanna speak to you on the subject of injustice, of injustice. If there's anything that a..., you are sure to face in the course of your life, in a small way or in a great way, it is to face and to deal, ultimately, with issues of injustice in life. At one time or another every single one of us is overwhelmed with the feeling of being cheated, of missing something in life that we felt we were entitled to or not being able to, to make things work in life in our minds because of what our experience is like in life. Sometimes that injustice comes in life because of a deep sense of a missed opportunity. You've worked hard for something in your life, you've focused, you've paid the price, you've paid your dues as though it were and then there comes that moment and that time in life when suddenly you miss that opportunity, you're overlooked in the moment and you feel an incredible sense of being cheated, a sense of injustice. If you don't think that's true, just ask a guy by the name of Moises Alou, who happens to be playing left field for the Chicago Cubs, who last night in the middle of the a..., at the...toward the end of the game in the 8th inning, was about to make the second out, 5 outs away from going to the World Series potentially for the Chicago Cubs and suddenly a foul ball down the leftfield line went into a blurred area. A fan put his hands out

to catch the ball, Alou's glove came up to catch the ball and suddenly you saw un-played either there and on many of the sportscasts over the course of the day the frustration and the anks of a player who has paid his dues and felt that he missed an opportunity that was rightfully his. But on the other hand, if you've never felt the injustice of a missed opportunity, you may know the injustice of being blamed, blamed for something that was well intentioned, blamed for something that you intended to be good. You know something of the heart and of the feeling of a young man by the name of Steve Bartman. Steve Bartman happened to be that fan in leftfield last night. Steve Bartman was a man who nobody knew who he was last night, he was just one of some 35,700 and something fans that were at that game last night. But because the ball came and he was just so absorbed in the moment with trying to, to catch a foul ball at a playoff series. He's even wearing the Cubs hat, he's a Cub's fan, he's there to root on his team and within a moment the ball hit his hand, it missed Alou's glove and the entire stadium turned against him. In fact the story is that Mr. Bartman, 26 years old, who coaches by the way a, a sort of a, a really high quality, a young student team and even wore their jersey last night as he supported his Chicago Cubs, that he had to be led out of the stadium under protected security and had to have a jacket over his head as people threw beer at him and hurled insults at him and said to him, "You cost us the World Series." He couldn't even go to work today and every major network is showing this moment where he was so excited and all he was tryin to do was catch a foul ball that seemed to be coming his way and he's been blamed and his whole life has been turned upside-down in a moment that he thought was going to be fun and exciting and victorious and it has become something incredibly miserable and today he feels injustice. You see injustice can come in a variety of shapes and forms in life, moments when we feel cheated, cheated because of a missed opportunity, cheated because we feel like everybody's blaming us for something that we thought was a well intended effort or a, or just a, a something that we were facing in the course of the life and, and, and it can come in a variety of forms in our relationships, it can come in, in, in a variety of failures that happen in life. But every one of us struggles with inequities in life and the injustice that comes out of it and when we do we begin to struggle with our faith and we begin to struggle with God. And whether it's a minor slight or a major inequity we have to try to bring some sense of spiritual resolution.

Well, tonight I want us to look at the testimony of a Psalm, Psalm 73 and the psalmist who's words we read here is actually a man who's simply being honest with God about what he's feeling. I've told you that the Psalms are an incredible expression of human emotion and human experience and in Psalm 73 we meet a guy who's just being honest and opening his heart with...to God, but he's doing it because there's some things that he sees and some things he doesn't understand and he is feeling a major sense of injustice in life. Let's read and see what he has to say, beginning in Psalm 73 in verse 1, he says:

¹Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. ²But as for me, my feet almost stumbled; My steps nearly slipped.

He said, do you understand here? I can stand up and say to you, God is good, He's blessed my nation of Israel. But I want you to know that from a personal standpoint I've almost stumbled, my feet are slipping, I'm struggling here. And why?

³*For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

I couldn't make sense out of this; bad people, enjoying all kinds of good things. And then he goes on to say in that same passage down in verse 13 he's crying out to God:

¹³*Surely I've cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence.*

¹⁴*For all day long I've been plagued, And chastened every morning.*

I look at the world around me and I see all these people livin it up, havin a good time, havin a great life. They don't think about God, they're ungodly people and yet they're just havin the time of life and I look at me and I think man, God I'm getting cheated here. I'm tryin to honor You, I'm tryin to serve You and even though I've tried to do all these things to be faithful to You I'm constantly faced with challenge and conflict and struggle in life and God it just doesn't make sense. Have you ever been there? You see that is the thought of injustice. In fact he gives that thought expression in a variety of ways and I want us just to really pause and take time and I want us to look tonight at what I would call **THE NEED TO OBSERVE THE REFLECTIONS OF ONE AGITATED BROTHER.** [pause for congregation laughter] I want you to observe the reflections of an agitated brother because that's what he is. He's a believer, no question about it, but he is agitated and he is agitated in his mind and he's agitated in his heart and in his emotions because of the fact that the things that he knows on the inside spiritually he's struggling with. In fact he's really being honest enough to say, on the outside I look like I've got it together. I'm livin a good life for God. I'm being true. I've got all my ducks in a row spiritually, but on the inside God, I'm havin a hard time with this. I don't feel good about what I see and what we have got is an agitated brother. Now what is it that causes that agitation in him and what is it that causes that same agitation in you and in me? Well I believe there are several things that do that. It all begins with something that he observes here, that he says. It's in verse 3 when he says:

For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

When I saw; it all had to do with how he was seeing life and what he was looking at in life and he said as I've been looking at life and as I've been thinking about life, he's saying, God this just isn't addin up. And while on the one hand everybody knows me to be true and righteous and upstanding on the other hand I'm just, just, just, I'm havin a hard time with this. And what was it that he saw? What is it that I see that makes

me struggle?

Well, one thing is that **WHEN THE FACTS OF MY FAITH AND THE FACTS OF LIFE DON'T ADD UP**. When the facts of my faith and the facts of my life don't add up. There are times in life when I try to, you know, put all the numbers in a column and start adding them up and it just doesn't seem that on the one hand the things that I say that I know and that I believe about God add up with the things that I see and that I experience in life. And when the things that I believe and the things that I experience don't come together then I begin to struggle with that. Now he made a very clear affirmation, in fact the most interesting thing about this Psalm is the way the Psalm begins. What does he say in verse 1?

Truly...

What are the next 3 words?

...God is good...

God is good! He could have worshipped at Prestonwood last Sunday, because last Sunday morning our pastor brought a message where he talked about the goodness of God and we sang together about God is good and we proclaimed together God is good and everything we said is that God is good and it's great to come to church and say God is good, God is good, God is good, but it's really hard when you leave church and God doesn't look good on the outside, when you face the problems that you face in life and when you see things happening where people are hurting and you can reconcile it. Isn't that right? Isn't that hard? Don't you struggle with that? And yet I love the fact that he, he makes this strong proclamation:

Truly...

Spurgeon in his commentary says, it's as though at the beginning he just says, Amen, God is good, I believe it, but I sure am havin a hard time with what I say I believe and with what I see. I think there're two realities that make it difficult for us to reconcile what we believe and what we experience, the facts of faith and the facts of life.

One of those is what he said over there in verse 14:

All day long I've been plagued and chastened every morning.

He literally said, one of the things that's really hard for me is **WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE**. Do you ever struggle with that, that bad things happen to good people? He's sayin, Lord I'm a good man, I'm a God's kind of a man, but I'm havin a lot of bad things happen to me and one of the things that we struggle with in our experience, but that we struggle with in the larger experience of the world around us, is when we see bad things happening to good people. In fact this becomes one of the most constant a..., struggles and arguments that people use in the world around us, is the whole issue of, good people and bad things. It becomes the

argument for many people saying, there's no such thing as a good God. Because how could a good God let bad things happen? Have you ever had somebody say that to you? I can't believe in a God who would let these kinds of things happen, people say that to me all the time.

I love the fact that an incredible writer in Christian history has addressed this issue in a very forthright and an very significant way. C.S. Lewis was an Oxford scholar and he taught there at the university and he wrestled many times with this issue of suffering, the presence of evil in the world and what the implications of that were in light of being a person of faith. But long before Lewis was a person of faith he was a man who had embraced in his life a mindset of atheism. He'd had no belief in God and one of his primary means of standing against God was this simple thing, why would bad things happen to good people? And in his book, *Mere Christianity*, Lewis addresses how he dealt with this issue in his life and I believe that it is so significant that while the passage that I'm going to read to you is a little bit of a long or a lengthy for verbal reading, I want you to pay attention to some excerpts from this passage that I've provided for you on the screen tonight, because I think it addresses the very issue that the psalmist was wrestling with, why do bad things happen to good people? Listen to what Lewis said:

"If a good God made the world, why has it gone wrong? And for many years I simply refused to listen to the Christian answers to this question, because I kept on feeling, quote, 'Whatever you say and however clever your arguments are, isn't it much simpler and easier to say that the world was not made by some intelligent power? Aren't all your arguments simply a complicated attempt to avoid the obvious?' But then that threw me back on another difficulty; my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I gotten this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in violent reaction against it? A man feels wet when he falls into water because man is not a water animal. A fish doesn't feel wet. Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that then my argument against God collapsed too, for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies. Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist, in other words that the whole of reality was senseless, I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality, namely my idea of justice... < Turn Tape > ...was full of sense. Consequently atheism turned out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning we should never have found out that it has no meaning. Just as if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes we would never know it was dark. Dark would be without meaning."

Isn't that an incredible statement? The very thing that cries out in us to say, "Why do bad things happen to ~~good thing~~...good people?" becomes it's very own defense to say to us that I'd never know goodness or badness if

there weren't some reality of the goodness of God in the face of the evil of this world. And so while on the one hand I struggle with reconciling my faith in the facts of life, bad things happening to good people I ultimately have to realize with the psalmist there's something wrong with that argument.

But there's another thing that causes us to struggle with facts and with our faith and that is not only when bad things happen to good people but how about **WHEN GOOD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE?** Heh! That's the other side of the coin isn't it? When good things are happening to bad people and that was what had really set this guy off. If you read beginning in verse 4 he starts by saying:

...I saw...

Rather in verse 3:

...I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

And he says in verse 4:

There were no pangs in their death,...

And you can continue to read there in your translation, but please permit me, just for a minute to read the next few verses from the New Living Translation. I love what it says:

⁴These people seem to live a painless life. Their bodies are so healthy and strong. ⁵They aren't troubled like other people or plagued with problems like everyone else. ⁶They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and their clothing is woven of cruelty. ⁷These fat cats have everything their hearts could wish for. ⁸They scoff and speak only evil and in their pride they seek to crush others. ⁹They boast against the very heavens and ~~the~~...their words strut throughout all the earth.

He said, I don't understand it God. It's not only the problem that bad things happen to good people but good things happen to bad people and God I'm havin a hard time with the fact that they seem to be living up an overstuffed lifestyle. Maybe you read as I did that one of these CEO's of one of these firms that was recently in the news, a major business in corporate America, that the personal excesses were so great ~~that on~~ ~~one~~...that in one occasion, this guy had a shower curtain in his house that was worth over \$20,000. I mean that just kinda ticks you off doesn't it? [pause for congregation laughter] I mean I go down there to WalMart, you know and I mean I'm sittin there thinking \$20,000 for a shower curtain. And he was swindling and conniving and taking advantage of his company and of his trust and of his responsibility and the very brain that had given him the ability to ascend to such a heightened role had become the very means by which he twisted and distorted and took advantage of others. You see those kinds of things are hard things for us to deal with and it's hard when what you believe about God is not what you see in life and one

of the times that I struggle with injustice is simply when I can't put it together, a good God and a bad world. Now the problem with that is me. I want it all to line up in my mind. I wanna put God in a nice little box where I can explain Him and describe Him and tell everybody exactly how it is. But God never gives me that privilege. He won't get in my box. Just because I have a need to reconcile the facts of my faith and the facts of my life, God has no need to reconcile it all for me. He gives me His Word. He gives me His character. He gives me His revelation to help me to understand and when the facts of my faith and the facts of my life do not add up it still does not change the fact that $1 + 1 = 2$ and though bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people, $1 + 2 = 3$ and God is perfect. Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the perfect equation is that God is still just, even when life isn't fair. So when the facts of my life and the facts of my faith don't add up that still doesn't mean that God is not perfect.

But there's another reason that this brother was agitated and that is not only because of the fact that the facts of faith and the facts of life add...didn't add up, there was something else he was struggling with and that is **THAT HIS PRICE TAGS AND GOD'S VALUES DIDN'T SQUARE UP**, they didn't come together. He had price tags he was putting on all these things going on in the lives of these prosperous people and they didn't add up with, necessarily God's values and that's when I get in trouble, because you see I get distracted by the price tags. I start looking at the price tags of things in life and getting interested in what things cost and what things are worth and how they look in this world and how much I have or how much I don't have and that doesn't always add up with God's values for me. I get way too focused on money, on wealth and on things. Just because I'm a pastor doesn't mean that I live with a perpetual vow of poverty in my own heart. Heh! Somebody said:

"Money won't make you happy, but at least it'll give you a lot of options as to how to spend your misery."

Heh! [pause for congregation laughter] Well, a lot of people are living for that aren't they? We all struggle living in a community that is filled with glitz and glamour and grand and don't any of us say it doesn't matter because it effects us and it's one of the things that we all have to deal with in life, because before long I begin to let my values focus on the price tags of life rather than on the values of God. God values love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control and I would say that our marketing system goes right in the face against just about everyone of those things that God values. And we all struggle with the difference between our price tags and God's values. That's why the health, wealth preaching is so popular, because it...it kinda brings my values and the price tags together in life. It doesn't bring God's values together, it just brings my price tags and my values to a place where I can begin to say, hey, if I'm right with God, God blesses me, I get prosperous and that's why that is such a popular doctrine in our world and especially in Western Civilization because it is easier to substitute my price tags for God's values.

There was a third thing that was an issue for this man and that is not only that the facts of faith and the facts of life didn't add up and that his price tags and God's values didn't square up; but there was one other thing that was a problem for him and that was a problem for him and it can be a problem for me and that's **WHEN MY CLOCK AND GOD'S CALENDAR DOESN'T LINE UP**. Heh, you know, he just didn't understand this. He couldn't figure it out. He's looking at his life and his days and he's saying God I'm countin the time and the hours here and it sure seems to me like these people are having a good time and I'm havin a hard time and sometimes because God's calendar doesn't operate just like my clock and God's not living on my schedule and with my limitations and my perspective before long I'm struggling with the fact that I want God to do it on my schedule. That is to bless me or to remove the pain or to take away the problem or to resolve the justice and you see that becomes a, a varied issue for me. Over in the New Testament ~~in the book of 1st Peter,~~ the Bible tells us, ~~actually, excuses me in~~ 2nd Peter, chapter 3, that this is a problem for mankind, that we struggle with how we see life and how God sees life. 2nd Peter chapter 3, verse 1 says:

¹Beloved, I write to you (to stir up in reminder), ²that you would be mindful of the words which were spoken by the holy prophets, and the commandments of the apostles of the Lord our Savior, ³knowing this first; that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their lust, ⁴and they'll say, "Where is the promise of His coming."...

That is the coming of Christ.

...for since the fathers fell asleep all things have continued on from the beginning ⁵and this they willfully forget and by the word of God the heavens were made and the earth standing in the water ~~and in~~ and out of the water, ⁶by which it existed before being flooded with water.

But the Bible goes on to say in verse 8:

⁸Beloved do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord is as a thousand years, and a thousand years is one day. ⁹And the LORD is not slack concerning His promise as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

I struggle with the fact that God doesn't operate on my calendar and He certainly won't live by my stopwatch. Why? Because His plan is greater and while I may want to see Him fix something, change something, correct something, right now God, do it today! His schedule is completely different from mine and as soon as you start tryin to put God on your schedule you are gonna be one agitated person because it's not gonna happen. So here we see, we observe our agitated brother. He's agitated because the facts of his life and the facts of his faith aren't adding up. He's agitated because of the fact that his price tags and God's values don't square up. He's agitated because his clock and God's calendar

doesn't line up and he's about to come to the place in his life where he simply says that's it! In fact so great was he at that po...point in his life that in Psalm 73 and in verse 15 he said:

¹⁵If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. ¹⁶For when I thought to understand this, It was painful for me—

He literally came to the place where he realized, I am so fed up with how I feel about this that I just kinda wanna say forget the whole thing. But I realized I would have denied you before a generation of people. So what was the solution? What needed to happen? Well, lets continue reading down in verse 17, let's go back to verse 16:

¹⁶When I thought how to understand this, It was painful for me—¹⁷Until, ~~until~~ I went into the sanctuary of God; And then I understood their end.

You see it wasn't until I went into the sanctuary of God and got my eyes away from what I saw and how I was viewing life, my calendar, my price tags, the facts of life versus the facts of faith, but when I got it all back in perspective and I got my eyes off of me and them and I got my eyes on You, then God, everything changed because I started seeing it as it really is. He said:

¹⁷...I saw their end. ¹⁸Surely You set them in slippery places;...

Isn't that an interesting phrase? How did he open the Psalm? He said, my feet were stumbling, I was about to slip down. He says, wait a minute, I'm not the one slipping here. They're the ones who are living their lives on banana peels. They're the ones who are about to slip because they're walking in slippery places and he goes on to say:

¹⁸...You have cast them down to destruction. ¹⁹Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. ²⁰As a dream when one awakes, So, LORD, You awake, and You despise their image. ²¹Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. ²²I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. ²³Nevertheless I'm continually with You; You hold me up by my right hand. ²⁴And You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward You're gonna receive me into glory.

I'm not missing anything in life. It's just that this life is not what it's all about, it's about something that's coming, it's not about something that's come. And therefore because of what is here and now it must be seen in light of what is there and then and it changes everything about the here and now. And so what happened is that having observed a brother with an agitated spirit we now see a man who is ordering an attitude adjustment in his life and that same attitude adjustment that he is ordering in his life is something that needs to be ordered in my life and in your life tonight. That instead of living with this perpetual sense of injustice that we would begin to see God's just cause in all things. You see the fascinating thing to me about this Psalm is that God didn't

change and even more than that the circumstances didn't change, they're still that way today aren't they? There's still people who are bad people who are having good things happen to them in life, but you see the psalmist changed, he changed as God was working in him. He changed as he began to realize that he was living with a hope in a just God even though he was living in an unjust world. And what is the secret to the **ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT** that I need to attend to in my life day in and day out if I'm going to keep from defaulting in my faith and wagging my finger in the face of God and saying You are unjust? What has to happen?

Well number 1: It has to be an adjustment that begins with the **DIRECTION OF MY EYES**. I gotta get my eyes in the right place. You know it's just so easy for your eye to wander off isn't it? Have you even noticed how that you can be talkin to somebody but if there are a lot of people around you before long you're sittin there and you're goin un-hun, un-hun, yeah, yeah, and they're just talkin to you over here and you're just yeah, un-hun, yeah, un-hun, yeah, and then you say something stupid to em cause you weren't listenin to what they were sayin, you were lookin at somebody else. You see it's so easy for my eye to get distracted. It's easy to get pulled off course in life and there are a lot of distractions out there around us. He said it wasn't:

Until I went into the sanctuary of God, I understood their end.

He literally came to the place where he said, I had to change what I was looking at and how I saw it and what I would do. You see we live in a world where it's easy to belittle God and to magnify men. That's the problem with our world, we're always magnifying people. Oh they're so big, they're so larger than life. No, they're really just weak sinful people just like you and me that we've blown out of proportion and what we do is we belittle God and we magnify men and what had to happen in this mans life and what has to happen in my life is that I have to quit belittling God and I have to get my eyes on Him.

Do you remember what happened in the book of Isaiah, chapter 6 when the, Isaiah the prophet said that he went into the sanctuary of God? He said:

¹*...I saw the LORD...high and lifted up...*

and before long he was down on his face saying, oh God, You are so holy, You are so righteous and I am so unholy. You see we have to have our eyes in the right place and to have an adjustment in your attitude in life it all begins with the direction of your eyes.

But there's something else to have an adjustment in the attitude of your life. It is an adjustment that will **CHANGE THE DESIRES OF YOUR HEART**. In ~~chapter 73 or in~~ Psalm 73, verse 21 he says:

My heart was grieved,...

No longer is his heart just agitated, he's now grieved. He's grieved

because he didn't see people in light of the way God saw them and he's grieved because he had his affections in the wrong place. Hear me very carefully tonight, one of the most painful things that can ever happen in life is the consequence of twisted affections. When you let your affections get in the wrong place, with the wrong people, for the wrong purpose, you will have serious injury in the consequence of life. Ask anyone who's ever committed adultery. When you let your ~~afact~~...affections get in the wrong place the consequence is serious and the problem with so many of us who claim to know Jesus Christ is there is spiritual adultery in our hearts because what we say we do not commit in our hearts to Jesus.

There's a third thing that I would have you to see tonight about this adjustment that this man made and it's not only that it begins with the direction of your eyes and that it changes the desires of your heart. You know the Bible says in Psalm 34:4 [**should be 37:4**]:

Delight yourself in the LORD, He'll give you the desires of your heart.

But there's a third thing and that is that this adjustment **FOCUSES THE DELIBERATIONS OF YOUR MIND**. The interesting thing to me is how his thought process changed. He says in verse 17:

...I understood their end.

He says in verse 21:

...I was vexed in my mind.

Literally I began to realize my mind was, was all mixed up with the way it was thinking and I need to get my mind a..., back on course and he continues to talk from that point forward about the change in mind and when I adjust my spirit to the things of God it changes the way that I think, because I start thinking biblically and thinking rightly about God. Philippians chapter 4, verse 8 says:

Finally, brethren, what ever things are true and lovely, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are of good report, if there's any virtue in anything praiseworthy—meditate (think on) these things.

How many days in my life have I had to adjust the course of my thinking, because only then can I live life in focus.

There's one other thing that happens to you when this adjustment takes place and that is not only that it begins with the direction of your eyes and changes the desires of your heart and focuses the deliberations of your mind, but the adjustment, when it comes, will **ALTER THE DECLARATION OF YOUR TONGUE**. Do you remember what he said a minute ago? He said up there in verse 15:

..."I will speak thus," But behold I would have been untrue to a generation...

I was about to curse God. But look at what he says at the end, verse 25:

²⁵*Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth I desire besides You. ²⁶My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever...²⁸But it is good for me...*

He says in verse 28:

...to draw near to God; I put my trust in the Lord god, That I may declare all Your works.

You see, you quit bemoaning life. So many of us are down in the mouth, bemoaning life. But when we have our attitude adjusted we're blessing God, we're not bemoaning life anymore, we're blessing God. Because I'm now living in the reality of who God is and what God is like and it changes everything about how I live because I'm living from the inside out spiritually instead of living from the outside in circumstantially and that's what changes your view of justice. It's when you're livin from the inside out with the spiritual reality of who God is and what God is like. I don't know about you but I find this Psalm to be very convicting. I find it to be a portion of Scripture that every time I read it and study it, it challenges my heart. But as I read it again these days, getting ready for tonight I found my heart again back at another Psalm, a Psalm that we were in just a few days ago, Psalm 139 that ends with these words and I believe they're the ending of this talk tonight:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; Test me, and know my thoughts; Point out anything in me LORD that offends You and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

I think that's the prayer that's need in our hearts tonight. Search me, try me, lead me in the way everlasting.