

The Meek Shall Inherit The Earth

Psalm 37:1-40

¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
² for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.
³ Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
⁴ Take delight in the Lord,
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in him and he will do this:
⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn,
your vindication like the noonday sun.
⁷ Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.
⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.
⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed,
but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land.
¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more;
though you look for them, they will not be found.
¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land
and enjoy peace and prosperity.
¹² The wicked plot against the righteous
and gnash their teeth at them;
¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked,
for he knows their day is coming.
¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword
and bend the bow
to bring down the poor and needy,
to slay those whose ways are upright.
¹⁵ But their swords will pierce their own hearts,
and their bows will be broken.
¹⁶ Better the little that the righteous have
than the wealth of many wicked;
¹⁷ for the power of the wicked will be broken,
but the Lord upholds the righteous.
¹⁸ The blameless spend their days under the Lord's care,
and their inheritance will endure forever.
¹⁹ In times of disaster they will not wither;
in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.
²⁰ But the wicked will perish:
Though the Lord's enemies are like the flowers of the field,
they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.

²¹ The wicked borrow and do not repay,
but the righteous give generously;
²² those the Lord blesses will inherit the land,
but those he curses will be destroyed.
²³ The Lord makes firm the steps
of the one who delights in him;
²⁴ though he may stumble, he will not fall,
for the Lord upholds him with his hand.
²⁵ I was young and now I am old,
yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.
²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely;
their children will be a blessing.
²⁷ Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.
²⁸ For the Lord loves the just
and will not forsake his faithful ones.
Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed;
the offspring of the wicked will perish.
²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land
and dwell in it forever.
³⁰ The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak what is just.
³¹ The law of their God is in their hearts;
their feet do not slip.
³² The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,
intent on putting them to death;
³³ but the Lord will not leave them in the power of the
wicked
or let them be condemned when brought to trial.
³⁴ Hope in the Lord
and keep his way.
He will exalt you to inherit the land;
when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.
³⁵ I have seen a wicked and ruthless man
flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,
³⁶ but he soon passed away and was no more;
though I looked for him, he could not be found.
³⁷ Consider the blameless, observe the upright;
a future awaits those who seek peace.
³⁸ But all sinners will be destroyed;
there will be no future for the wicked.
³⁹ The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble.
⁴⁰ The Lord helps them and delivers them;
he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,
because they take refuge in him.

Our Experience in Life

There are seasons when our experience in life is incongruent with our faith. What we see demonstrated in life contradicts the promises of scripture. The psalmist is disturbed by his observations. He sees the wicked prosper and rise in power. He turns to God to resolve the incongruence of faith and experience within his heart.

When Things Go Wrong

*Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; (v. 1)
do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (v. 7)
Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. (v. 8)*

1. The psalmist senses a growing anxiety in his heart. He is frustrated by what he sees. He is worried by the state of affairs because it is hopeless. There is also a growing sense of envy that he has to contend with. He is suffering for doing the right thing while the wicked prosper in their crooked way. The life of the wicked seem better in comparison to his life. He is also filled with rage. The success of the wicked angers him. The anger is driving him to take matters into his own hands.
2. If not checked, these emotions will make us bitter and doubt the goodness of God. The psalmist will not let these emotions get the better of him.
 - Do not fret (a state of anxiety)
 - Do not be envious
 - Refrain from anger

❖ Is prayer the place where you resolve the negative emotions raging within you?

Godly Advice and Wisdom

¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong;	² for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.
³ Trust in the Lord and do good	dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture.
⁴ Take delight in the Lord,	and he will give you the desires of your heart.
⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this:	⁶ He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.
⁷ Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes.	⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land
⁸ Refrain from anger and turn from wrath ; do not fret —it leads only to evil.	
²⁷ Turn from evil and do good ;	then you will dwell in the land forever. ²⁸ For the Lord loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones
³⁴ Hope in the Lord and keep his way.	He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are destroyed, you will see it.

1. The Psalmist comes before the Lord. Now he rests on the word of God to direct his prayers. He looks to the Lord to restore him. He instructs himself to stay on the right path.
 - Beware the pitfalls: anxiety, anger and envy lead to bitterness
 - Stay on the right path: turn away from evil
 - Come before the presence of the Lord: be still, commit, trust
 - Find joy in the presence of God: take delight, hope.

2. The psalmist will not let his present experience lead him away from God. As mentioned, these experiences have the potential to shape us over time if not addressed. The world will exert peer pressure on us to conform to its ways. Through prayer, we find strength to withstand this tide. In prayer, God shapes us in the image of His Son through His Spirit and His word.

Romans 12:17-21

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
¹⁸ If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. ²⁰ On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Wicked Acts ... But The Lord

¹⁰ A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.	¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity.
¹² The wicked plot against the righteous and gnash their teeth at them;	¹³ but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he knows their day is coming.
¹⁴ The wicked draw the sword and bend the bow to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose ways are upright.	¹⁵ But their swords will pierce their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.
³² The wicked lie in wait for the righteous, intent on putting them to death;	³³ but the Lord will not leave them in the power of the wicked or let them be condemned when brought to trial.

1. The Lord confounds the plans of the wicked. The wicked will not succeed because the Lord is against them. This is an observable truth in the salvation story of Israel and the Gospel. Evil will not succeed. Only the meek and the contrite will find salvation in the Lord. The Lord acts on behalf of His people.

The Righteous Content and Enduring

¹⁶ Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked;
¹⁷ for the power of the wicked will be broken, but the LORD upholds the righteous.
¹⁸ The blameless spend their days under the LORD's care, and their inheritance will endure forever.
¹⁹ In times of disaster they will not wither; in days of famine they will enjoy plenty.

²⁰ But the wicked will perish:
Though the LORD's enemies are like the flowers of the field, they will be consumed, they will go up in smoke.

³⁵ I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,
³⁶ but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found.

1. In Psalm 1, the righteous person who meditates on the word thrives, is fruitful and will endure where else the wicked are like chaff that is blown away.
2. God's people will endure because they draw from God. The Lord sustains them, and they will endure this storm. Their works endure because it comes before the presence of God as an acceptable offering. Their treasures are stored in heaven where no earthly force is able to destroy it.
3. The great reward of the righteous is the Lord Himself. He brings contentment to their soul. They delight in His presence. He is the desires of the heart that always satisfies.

Rethinking Our Experience

³⁷ Consider the blameless, observe the upright; a future awaits those who seek peace.

²⁵ I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. ²⁶ They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing.

³⁵ I have seen a wicked and ruthless man flourishing like a luxuriant native tree,
³⁶ but he soon passed away and was no more; though I looked for him, he could not be found.

- The psalmist looks at the bigger picture. He begins to see a faithful God upholding His people. The people of God are better people.
- We must not allow our present crisis to dominate our thoughts and feelings.
- In prayer, the Holy Spirit reveals to us the goodness of God in the lives of His people.
- We are Salt and Light.

The Meek Will Inherit the Earth

⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **Matthew 5:5**

⁹ For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land **Psalms 37:9**

¹¹ But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy peace and prosperity. **Psalms 37:11**

²² those the Lord blesses will inherit the land, but those he curses will be destroyed. **Psalms 37:22**

²⁹ The righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. **Psalms 37:29**

¹¹ Here is a trustworthy saying:
If we died with him, we will also live with him;
¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him.
If we disown him, he will also disown us;
¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.
2 Timothy 2:11-13

- The meek: those who rely on the Lord to lead, protect and defend them. They will not resort to the ways of the wicked, but they will look to the Lord for deliverance.
- The meek will endure hardships. They are enduring because of the presence of the Lord in their lives.

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

⁷ *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.* ⁸ *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair;* ⁹ *persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.* ¹⁰ *We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.*

- The meek will rule the world with Christ

Prayer Items

1. We come before the Lord when our experience is in congruent with our faith.
2. We discern the negative emotions within us, seeking healing from the Lord.
3. We equip ourselves with the belt of God's truth (His word) so that we will be able to stand firm.
4. In His presence, we discover the ability to endure (stand firm) that comes from knowing the Lord intimately.

Church

- An intimate desire to be in His presence in prayer and worship, where we learn to see God for who He is.
- God will continue to shape our lives through His word, allowing truth to build us as a Church.
- Trusting God with the small opportunities to bring glory to him, uniting our hearts as a Church to care for others, with our resources and abilities.
- Ministries:
 - In this season of waiting, that we may learn to sow (in our learning and preparation).
 - That our vision may be refreshed in His presence.
 - That our hearts may be steadfast in Him, learning to trust His timing.

Covid-19

- Economy & people's livelihood.
- Vaccines, it will fairly managed, and people will recover.
- Wisdom and good governance.
- United in helping.
- Mental health, stress, domestic violence.

Healing

- Sis. Rachel (Recovery)
- Jayden

Malaysia

- God will guide the leaders of our nation.
- Healing that brings unity to the church to embrace her call in becoming instrument of reconciliation.
- God will restore Justice and Compassion. The leaders will look into the needs of the poor and vulnerable.

