

Lesson 5 – Thursday: Lest the Righteous Be Tempted

1. IS FOLLOWING JESUS WORTH THE COST?
2. The lesson points out a contrast:
 - a. *“The scepter of wickedness” (Ps. 125:3) VS the “scepter of righteousness” (45:6)*
 - Two scepters, kingdoms, thrones, wills
 - And one of them looks like it is winning
 - God’s promises CAN *look like* they have failed.
3. David was there – *“Of Asaph” = “to Asaph to put to music”* (See Ms.4, 1896 – Ps. 73 authored by David)
 - a. **Psalm 73:1-16** -
 - David almost gives up on God.
 - One prayer of desperation – *“Lord, if you save me, I’ll serve you forever.”* Some follow through on that.
 - The opposite prayer – *“Lord, if you don’t come through for me, I’m done.”*
4. You have probably struggled with The Problem of the Prosperity of Evil
 - a. You look around and take inventory of who is *“doing well”* in this life, and you compare their prosperity to yours
 - b. **Psalm 42:3** – *My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, “Where is your God?”*
 - c. **This is the Temptation of the Righteous – TO GIVE UP TOO SOON**
 - **Job 12:6** – *“The tents of robbers prosper, and those who provoke God are secure—in what God provides by His hand.”*
 - **Jeremiah 12:1** – *“Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?”*
 - Echo of Abraham in **Genesis 18:25** - *“Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”*
 - **Joshua 7:7-8** – *“And Joshua said, “Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!”⁸ O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?”*
5. THE ANSWER IS GIVEN:
 - a. At the very start of **Psalm 73:1** - *Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart.*
 - b. David is ushered into the Sanctuary: **Psalm 73:17-20**
 - Grasp of reality gained only by spiritual insight, not by human logic
 - The curtain is pulled back, and he sees the wicked AS GOD SEES THEM (If we could only see them this way)
 - Sees LONG into the future – through the Day of Atonement to the Final Destruction of Sin
 - c. **Vs. 21-22**
 - He begins to weep for the lost. He grieves their loss.
 - When he is abused, he sees *their* spiritual danger.
 - This is just what Jesus did: *“Father, forgive them.”*
 - d. Satan TEMPTS the Righteous to judge by the physical rather than the spiritual, to measure success by human standards rather than by God’s standards
 - THE COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS: **John 16:33** – *In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*