

Focus
Matthew 14:25-31

Sometimes we are a lot like Peter
Looking around at what is going on around us and getting distracted
Such things can destroy our faith and leave us hopeless and helpless
Psalm 73 considers this very situation

I Slipped

Psalm 73:1-2

God is good to His children.
But I sometimes stumble as I look out at the world

Psalm 73:3-5

The unrighteous seem to have no worries.
They go about their lives without concern for how they act.
While we are constantly watching ourselves & striving to do right, they don't seem to have a care.

Psalm 73:6-9

They enjoy life, speak against God, see themselves as "top dog" in the world.
Similar passage in Job - **Job 21:7-14**

Psalm 73:10-12

We often look around us and wonder "Is God really paying attention?"
The wicked seem to be rewarded for their evil.

Psalm 73:13-15

Trying to keep ourselves clean in the midst of this seems like a vain exercise sometimes.
We want to cry out "Why?"

I Turned

Psalm 73:16-17

Trying to understand how this can be is impossible for man alone.
When we come to God can find the answers - **Exodus 25:22**

The temple, or sanctuary, was the place to consult & speak with God for Israel.

Psalm 73:18-20

When we come to God to seek answers, we realize their joy is only for a short time.
God has their punishment reserved & it will last for an eternity.
Ever had a wonderful dream, everything seemed to be perfect, then you suddenly wake up and realize it was only a dream.

Psalmist illustrates the plight of the wicked in this way.

Psalm 73:21-24

While we were stumbling at the seeming joy of the wicked, we were hindering our relationship with God.

But God was still there for us. Waiting & reaching out to help us understand.
If we consider the counsel of God, we will see reward.

Psalm 73:25-26

God is there to strengthen & support us during our struggles here on earth.
He is truly a rock - **Psalm 18:2**

He will protect & deliver from all harm - **Psalm 73:27-28**

Those who are separated from God will perish.

I Rose

When I seek Jesus for help, as with Peter, He will rescue me
Let us remain with God, near & in His sanctuary - **James 4:8**
Taking advantage of His refuge, so that we might avoid stumbling at the life of the wicked around us and be busy telling them of God's work of salvation.
Doing such will lead us to the glory that awaits God's children.