



Sunday, March 19, 2017

† **Stewarding God's Leading (Psalm 37:1-40)**

In this Psalm, David wrestles with these age-old questions; “*Why do the wicked prosper?*” and “*Why do the Godly suffer?*” In this Psalm, we are encouraged to *wait* upon the Lord.

I. The Walk of Faith is Marked by “PUTTING OFF”

In the process of being led by the Lord, it is important to note areas which are necessary to “put off.” These are areas of sin that God draws to our attention. We must keep in mind that sin hinders our fellowship with God and therefore interferes with our sensitivity to His leading us.

Isaiah 59:1-2 Behold, the **LORD'S** hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither **His** ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ² But your iniquities have separated between you and your **God**, and your sins have hid **His** face from you, that **He** will not hear.

A. Be not FRETFUL—don't react (v. 1a, 7b)

Often our anger is a *reaction* instead of a *response*. A *reaction* is **led by emotion** while a *response* is **thought through**. As believers, we are to give a prayerful response so as to honor the Lord.

Keep in mind that you injure yourself as you “fret” over the works of others. Don't allow your attitude and conduct be negatively influenced by the words and actions of others.

B. Be not ENVIOUS—don't be jealous (v. 1b)

There is no reason to be envious of the wicked for their life on earth is the only heaven that they will enjoy.

Don't allow your attitude and conduct be negatively influenced by the words and actions of others.

II. The Walk of Faith is Marked by “RENEWING”

The key to *putting off* these sinful reactions is to *renew* our mind with what God says.

A. Prospects of the Wicked

When we go against God's way there is **judgment**, but when we follow God's way there is **blessing**.

B. Promises to the Righteous

These are stabilizing truths for those who love the Lord. These are promises that are meant to bring peace to those who are obedient to God's commands.

III. The Walk of Faith is Marked by _____

Psalm 37:23 The steps [*course of life*] of a *good* man are ordered [*established*] by the LORD: and **He** delighteth in his way.

Q: Does God delight in the way that I am going?

Q: How will God delight in the way that I take?

A. Be _____ in the LORD – “Trust in the LORD” (v. 3a)

“Trust in the LORD, and do good;...” – This “*trust*” is being confident. It carries the idea of a deep abiding reliance upon something.

Keep in mind that when I am “*fretting*” I am not trusting.

B. Be _____ in the LORD – “Delight in the LORD” (v. 4)

This is not the way to get your hands upon God’s *provision*, but instead how you get your heart where God’s *purpose* is.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.”

Cf. Matthew 6:33

C. Be _____ to the LORD – “Commit thy ways unto the LORD” (v. 5)

The idea of this word, “*commit*” is to roll a weight onto something that you believe can handle it. It is the idea of *surrendering*.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

D. Be _____ before the LORD – “Rest in the LORD” (v. 7)

Psalm 46:10a Be still, and know that I **AM** God:...

E. Be _____ to the LORD – “Wait on the LORD” (v. 34)

This Hebrew word translated, “wait” carries the idea of patient confidence. It is a confident expectation.

As we learn to “wait on the LORD” we learn submission to God.

Psalm 27:14 Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

CONCLUSION: The walk of faith is marked by being *secure, satisfied, surrendered, silent,* and *submissive*. Learn to walk in faith letting God lead you. He is more than capable.

What is my next step?

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