

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. At the end of last week's set of questions on Psalm 37:1-20, you were encouraged to commit to a small action step to live out the truth of Psalm 37 in your life. With a partner (perhaps the same one as last week), do a quick check-in using these questions:
 - a. In the past week, were you able to take your action step? How did it go?
 - b. If you took the action step, where did you see God at work in the process?
 - c. If you didn't take the action step, that's OK. What got in the way? Would you like to recommit to it for the coming week?
2. Jamie mentioned the use of algorithms, which drive information to our social media accounts and web browsers. What topics do your algorithms usually try to feed you?
3. Jamie said that the Psalms are an antidote to these algorithms. What antidote does this Psalm (or another Psalm) offer to you?
4. Some may interpret verse 25 to mean that those made righteous by God do not experience poverty. Do you agree? How are Jesus' words in Luke 6:20-21 and Matthew 5:45b helpful in guiding our understanding of the verse?
5. Verses 35-36 speak of a wicked man who spreads himself out like a seemingly healthy and growing tree but, in the end, is no more. Where have you seen instances of the wicked prospering for a season and then made to be no more?
6. Verses 20 and 26 identify **generosity** as one of the marks of those who are made righteous by the Lord.
 - a. What does it mean to be generous?
 - b. In what ways are you generous?
 - c. In what areas of your life might God be calling you to be more generous?

Psalm 37:21-40

21 The wicked borrows but does not pay back,
but the righteous is generous and gives;

22 for those blessed by the Lord[a] shall inherit
the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut
off.

23 The steps of a man are established by the
Lord, when he delights in his way;

24 though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong,
for the Lord upholds his hand.

25 I have been young, and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or his children begging for bread.

26 He is ever lending generously, and his
children become a blessing.

27 Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you
dwell forever.

28 For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake
his saints. They are preserved forever, but the
children of the wicked shall be cut off.

29 The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell
upon it forever.

30 The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom,
and his tongue speaks justice.

31 The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do
not slip.

32 The wicked watches for the righteous and
seeks to put him to death.

33 The Lord will not abandon him to his power or
let him be condemned when he is brought to
trial.

34 Wait for the Lord and keep his way, and he
will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on
when the wicked are cut off.

35 I have seen a wicked, ruthless man,
spreading himself like a green laurel tree.[b]

36 But he passed away,[c] and behold, he was
no more; though I sought him, he could not be
found.

37 Mark the blameless and behold the upright,
for there is a future for the man of peace.

38 But transgressors shall be altogether
destroyed; the future of the wicked shall be cut
off.

39 The salvation of the righteous is from the
Lord; he is their stronghold in the 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.