



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC	Song For Hard Times	SPEAKER	DSP Chua Seng Lee
THEME	Lessons From Selected Psalms	DATE	18 & 19 June 2022

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever wondered why life is so unfair? Why do seemingly evil people prosper while the pure in heart suffer? In the third sermon of this series, DSP Seng Lee spoke about the hard times that we may encounter in life, why observing the ways of the world may sometimes stumble us but gives us handles on how we can counter that.

SONG FOR HARD TIMES

Psalms 73 was written by Asaph, one of the 3 Levites chosen by King David. Credited to be wise and familiar with God's word, Psalms 73 serves as an instructional psalm for all of us. DSP shared four key points in this sermon:

1) Hard times can Perplex (v1-12)

The Psalmist understood God's goodness, however, he could not reconcile why God was good to the pure in heart but yet treated the wicked and proud even better. He was envious of how prosperous the wicked were, and felt that they should be judged as they were proud, boastful and have set their mouths against the heavens.

2) Analysis can Paralyse (v13-15)

The Psalmist then further analysed the situation based on his human wisdom. But the more he did so, the more conflicted he became, until the point it became "troublesome" in his sight (v16). He started to wonder if it was worth staying pure, yet he did not want to promote such an idea to the next generation.

3) Rediscover in his Presence (v16-24)

In V17, the Psalmist started to gain revelation when he came into the sanctuary of God.

What does the sanctuary of God refer to? The emphasis is not on the physical sanctuary, rather, it means to come into the presence of God.

How can we encounter the presence of God in Church? We can encounter God when we give him our fullest attention and focus on him. Our attitude in the sanctuary of God matters – in Jer 29:13, it says that you will seek and find God if you search for Him with all your heart.

In V18-20, God revealed to the Psalmist that although it may seem as though He allowed the wicked to prosper, this observation was based on the Psalmist's human analysis on the surface of the matter. DSP shared that often, the most important things in life are found in the unseen and in the eternal world, and not the physical world (Heb 11:1) where things are temporal.

By analysing life using the wisdom that is from God and by entering into His presence, the Psalmist rediscovered a new vision and perspective.

4) Declare His Praises (v25-28)

Through rediscovering this new perspective and encountering God, the Psalmist found a deeper love for God and a deeper desire to praise him.

When we encounter the goodness of God, and have seen our lives transformed, we naturally cannot help but declare of his praises and good works.

CONCLUSION

Life may be hard at times but Psalms 73 taught us not to analyse life using our human wisdom. Instead, use the wisdom that is from God. The Psalmist urged us to come into the presence of God, encounter Him during these hard times, rediscover his goodness and declare his praises thereafter.

QUESTIONS

1. Was there a time when you felt that life was unfair (e.g. the promotion that you were working towards at work went to someone else who may be less deserving)? Share about that experience, be it at work, personal life or in ministry.

2. What does coming into the sanctuary of God mean to you? How do you practise this daily?

3. DSP talked about how the Psalmist encountered the Lord during the hard times and then declared praises about Him. Is there a challenging situation in your life now? Seek God for a fresh perspective.