

August 16, 2026

Until I Entered the Sanctuary

Psalm 73

“My feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold...When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply, till I entered the sanctuary of God.” (Psalm 73:2,16-17)

There are moments in life when faith feels fragile. Moments when you look around and say, “Lord, this doesn’t make sense.” Psalm 73 is written for those moments. It’s not a psalm of victory. It’s not a psalm of celebration. It’s a psalm of confession—a confession that sounds like many of our own hearts: “My feet had almost slipped.” This is the psalm of a believer who loves God... but is struggling to understand God. A believer who is trying to hold on... but feels like life is pulling him apart. The turning point of the entire psalm is one simple line: **“Until I entered the sanctuary of God.”**

The psalmist was truly frustrated with his faith and societal injustice (vv. 1–14). He starts with honesty: “I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.”

He looks around and sees:

- People doing wrong... succeeding
- People living carelessly... thriving
- People mocking God... prospering
- People who don’t pray... living in peace

And he says, “Lord, what is going on?”

He even wonders: “Have I kept my heart pure for nothing?” That’s real. That’s raw. That’s Scripture giving you permission to say what you’ve been afraid to admit.

Sometimes the hardest part of faith is watching life seem to reward the wrong people.

Sometimes the hardest part of righteousness is feeling like it isn’t paying off.

Sometimes the hardest part of obedience is wondering if it even matters.

The psalmist is not losing his faith—he’s wrestling with his faith. And God can handle that.

The turning point that changes everything was when he uttered the statement: “Until I entered the sanctuary of God (v.17). Then I understood...” The sanctuary is not just a building. It’s the place where God’s presence reframes your perspective.

In the sanctuary, the psalmist sees:

- The temporary nature of wicked success. The eternal justice of God
- The fragility of earthly power. The security of God’s people

Worship doesn’t change his circumstances— **it changes his vision.**

He realizes: “I was looking at life from the ground. But in the sanctuary, God lifted me higher.”

When you step into God’s presence, you stop seeing life through fear and start seeing life through faith.

You stop seeing life through frustration and start seeing life through eternity.

You stop seeing life through comparison and start seeing life through calling.

The sanctuary is where God clears your spiritual eyesight. After the sanctuary moment, the psalmist speaks with new clarity: “Nevertheless, I am continually with You.”

That word “nevertheless” is powerful. It means: “Even when I doubted... You held me.” “Even when I envied... You guided me.” “Even when I almost slipped... You steadied me.” He says: “You hold me by my right hand.” “You guide me with Your counsel.” “You will receive me into glory.”

And then the climax of the entire psalm: “But as for me, the nearness of God is my good.” Not success. Not comfort. Not answers. Not explanations. **God Himself is my good.**

The psalmist realizes: “I don’t need everything to make sense. I just need God to be near.”

Psalm 73 teaches us something essential: when life feels unfair, God invites us to see reality from the sanctuary of His presence.

You don’t need a new situation— you need a new sanctuary moment.

When life feels unfair—**enter the sanctuary.**

When comparison steals your joy—**enter the sanctuary.**

When your faith feels shaky—**enter the sanctuary.**

When you don’t understand what God is doing—**enter the sanctuary.**

Because in the sanctuary, God restores your vision. In the sanctuary, God steadies your steps. In the sanctuary, God reminds you who He is. In the sanctuary, God reminds you who you are. And when you leave the sanctuary, you can say: “God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Let us pray: **Lord, when our feet feel like slipping, draw us into Your sanctuary. Lift our eyes. Steady our hearts. Reframe our vision. Teach us that Your nearness is our good. And guide us until our steps are firm again. In Jesus’ name, amen.**