

Kill the Beast

Life is full of inequities. Or, expressed in the words of a child, "It's not fair."

How do you deal with the inequities of life? The rich and powerful often seem to take advantage of others. Random events in life often seem to work against people keeping them from achieving their goals. So many people feel like they can never get ahead. Many feel like victims to life and to the people in their life.

When we allow ourselves to become *worked up* over the current issues of the day, whether personal issues or those on a larger national or global scale, we lose sight of reality. We forget our Savior and the power of our God. We forget that we have not been promised a problem-free life; rather, life will be filled with inequities. We forget that God is patient, even with evil people, even when they hurt other people.

We sometimes become so disgusted with the inequities in life that we want to lash out. We want someone to be held responsible. We want to 'kill the beast' who is heartless, 'kill the beast' who is arrogant; 'kill the beast' who hides behind wealth and power. Yet, when we allow ourselves to lash out, we become *united with the beast*. Then we react without any rational thought of our own.

**When my heart was embittered,
And I was pierced within,
Then I was senseless and ignorant;
I was like a beast before You.**

—Psalm 73:21-22

It is as if the Psalmist has looked into the human soul. He sees us as we are. In the first verse of Psalm 73 he writes, "Surely God is good to Israel." It sounds like a simple declaration of truth. Then, he writes, "But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling." He knows the truth, yet he

feels that his world is an exception: inequities loom. Life is not fair. (He might stumble.)

The Psalmist sees the rich, the arrogant, and the wicked and he knows their evil character. Yet, he finds himself envious. They simply do not have the same troubles as ordinary men.

The Psalmist sees them mock God and treat people unkindly. He sees how easy it would be for him to be like them, but that would be *betrayal*. That would be going against the very things he believed to be true, the things he had taught his children and others.

So, how did the Psalmist resolve his dilemma?

**When I pondered to understand this,
It was troublesome in my sight
Until I came into the sanctuary of God;
Then I perceived their end.**

He realized that he could only make sense of the inequities of life when he turned to God.

When he turned to God's divine counsel he was able to see beyond the inequities of this life. He was able to understand the ultimate end of the arrogant and the wicked. He was able to look beyond himself and beyond his problems and find refuge (peace and security) in God.

His confidence in God was restored. He better understood life. He realized why God was patient with the ungodly and he accepted that God will deal fairly with him and with the ungodly. In his mind he had solidified the truth of his opening statement. There was no longer any doubt based on his unfair circumstances.

**Surely God is good to Israel,
To those who are pure in heart!**
Kill the beast within. Enjoy the security of living in peace with God through purity of heart.