

FAITH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

June 13, 2010

**Don't Fret About Evildoers
Instead Be a Good-doer**

**Focal Passage:
Psalm 37**

Cross References: Matthew 5:5; 6:24; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Jeremiah 29:11

Bible in a Year Daily Readings

June 6-13, 2010

Jun 6 Psalms 1 - 8
Jun 7 Psalms 9 - 17
Jun 8 Psalms 18 - 21
Jun 9 Psalms 22 - 27
Jun 10 Psalms 28 - 33
Jun 11 Psalms 34 - 37
Jun 12 Psalms 38 - 42
Jun 13 Psalms 43 - 49

Highlights of the Week:

Psalm 1: Marks of a righteous person
Psalm 4: Peace
Psalm 8: What is man?
Psalm 14: What the fool says
Psalm 16: Peter's text at Pentecost
Psalm 18: Victory
Psalm 19: Words of my mouth and meditations of my heart
Psalm 22: Jesus!!!
Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd
Psalm 24: Give us clean hands
Psalm 27: The LORD is my light and my salvation
Psalm 31: Into Thy hands I commit My Spirit
Psalm 32: Sin covered and confessed
Psalm 34: O magnify the Lord with me
Psalm 37: Don't fret about evildoers
Psalm 40: Wait patiently for the Lord
Psalm 42: My soul pants for Thee

Central Idea: The Psalmist tells righteous people not to fret about the seeming success of the wicked, because it will be short-lived; but the righteous will be blessed always.

Lesson Idea: We need to continue to seek after righteousness, because the LORD will bless us if we do. We also need not be jealous of the prosperity of the wicked and realize that wrong will never have permanent success.

NOTE: This Psalm contrasts the wicked with the righteous, so it is hard to subdivide by verses. Instead, it will be useful to examine it as a whole. The discussion section will be subdivided into three categories according to what the psalm teaches about: 1)the fate of the wicked, 2)the benefits of righteousness, and 3)instructions and commands on how the righteous should live.

Psalm 37

A Psalm of David.

- ¹Do not fret because of evildoers,
Be not envious toward wrongdoers.
- ²For they will wither quickly like the grass
And fade like the green herb.
- ³Trust in the LORD and do good;
Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.
- ⁴Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it.
- ⁶He will bring forth your righteousness as the light
And your judgment as the noonday.
- ⁷Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;
- Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,
Because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.
- ⁸Cease from anger and forsake wrath;
Do not fret; it leads only to evildoing.
- ⁹For evildoers will be cut off,
But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.
- ¹⁰Yet a little while and the wicked man will be no more;
And you will look carefully for his place and he will not be there.
- ¹¹But the humble will inherit the land
And will delight themselves in abundant prosperity.
- ¹²The wicked plots against the righteous
And gnashes at him with his teeth.
- ¹³The Lord laughs at him,
For He sees his day is coming.
- ¹⁴The wicked have drawn the sword and bent their bow
To cast down the afflicted and the needy,
To slay those who are upright in conduct.
- ¹⁵Their sword will enter their own heart,
And their bows will be broken.
- ¹⁶Better is the little of the righteous
Than the abundance of many wicked.
- ¹⁷For the arms of the wicked will be broken,
But the LORD sustains the righteous.
- ¹⁸The LORD knows the days of the blameless,
And their inheritance will be forever.
- ¹⁹They will not be ashamed in the time of evil,
And in the days of famine they will have abundance.
- ²⁰But the wicked will perish;

*And the enemies of the LORD will be like the glory of the pastures,
They vanish--like smoke they vanish away.*

²¹*The wicked borrows and does not pay back,
But the righteous is gracious and gives.*

²²*For those blessed by Him will inherit the land,
But those cursed by Him will be cut off.*

²³*The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
And He delights in his way.*

²⁴*When he falls, he will not be hurled headlong,
Because the LORD is the One who holds his hand.*

²⁵*I have been young and now I am old,
Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
Or his descendants begging bread.*

²⁶*All day long he is gracious and lends,
And his descendants are a blessing.*

²⁷*Depart from evil and do good,
So you will abide forever.*

²⁸*For the LORD loves justice
And does not forsake His godly ones;
They are preserved forever,
But the descendants of the wicked will be cut off.*

²⁹*The righteous will inherit the land
And dwell in 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 spies upon the righteous
And seeks to kill him.*

³³*The LORD will not leave him in his hand
Or let him be condemned when he is judged.*

³⁴*Wait for the LORD and keep His way,
And He will exalt you to inherit the land;
When the wicked are cut off, you will see it.*

³⁵*I have seen a wicked, violent man
Spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil.*

³⁶*Then he passed away, and lo, he was no more;
I sought for him, but he could not be found.*

³⁷*Mark the blameless man, and behold the upright;
For the man of peace will have a posterity.*

³⁸*But transgressors will be altogether destroyed;
The posterity of the wicked will be cut off.*

³⁹*But the salvation of the righteous is from the LORD;
He is their strength in 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.*

DISCUSSION:

THE FATE OF THE WICKED

According to vs 1-2 why should righteous people not worry about or envy people who do wrong?

What kinds of things tempt the righteous to envy the wicked?

What do vs 9-10 say God will do to the wicked and what does that mean?

According to vs 12-15 what do wicked people do to the righteous and needy, and how does God repay them?

What do vs 16-22 teach about an improper attitude towards money and wealth?

Read Matthew 6:24. What does Jesus teach about not letting money be your master? Who or what is your master? How does your lifestyle reflect that?

What does vs 29 say will happen to the offspring of the wicked? How have you seen this truth reflected in our society?

Vs 35-38 seem to indicate that wicked people sometime seem to flourish. In what ways do wicked people seem successful?

What do these verses teach will happen to them though?

THE STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

What do vs 3-4 promise to those who trust and delight in the LORD?

What does it mean to “delight” in the LORD?

If you delight in the LORD what will the “desires of your heart” look like?

According to vs 5-6 what will everyone see in the lives of those who commit to the LORD?

What does vs 9-11 promise to those who “hope in the LORD?”

Read Matthew 5:5. Who does Jesus say will inherit the earth? How does Jesus’ statement reflect a knowledge of the Scriptures?

Why do vs 16-17 teach that it is better to be righteous and poor than to be wicked but wealthy?

What does it mean that the “LORD upholds the righteous?”

What do vs 18-19 promise to the “blameless?” (NOTE: “blameless” here does not mean “sinless” because only Jesus lived a life without sin; but blameless in the sense of someone whose heart is set on following the LORD and obeying Him)?

What do vs 23-24 promise?

How can you insure that the LORD “delights” in you?

Vs 25 is a great verse to memorize. What principle does it teach?

What other benefits come to the just according to vs 28-29?

According to vs 37 what do the blameless and upright have? Compare that vs to the promise found in Jeremiah 29:11.

Where does our salvation come from? (see vs 39-40)

THE MANDATES TO THE RIGHTEOUS

What do vs 1-2 tell us not to do when we see the evil that people do?

What do vs 7-8 command righteous people to do?

Why are we commanded to “be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him? Why is that hard for us?

According to vs 21 what is a characteristic of how the righteous use their money and resources? See also vs 25-26.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. What does this passage teach about generous giving?

What two things does vs 27 command us to do? Can you do one without the other? Why or why not?

Read vs 30-31. What should come out of a righteous person’s mouth and what should be in his or her heart?

How does the law of God get into someone’s heart?

How well is it getting into yours?

APPLICATION:

We all like the thought of receiving God’s blessings in our lives, but do we understand that His blessings are conditional? We can’t and don’t earn our salvation by good works; that comes only by the grace of God through faith in Christ Jesus. But we don’t enjoy all the benefits of God’s favor and reward unless we are willing to obey His Word and delight in Him. Those benefits may not have an effect on our bank accounts, but they will bring great peace and blessing to our hearts and lives.

Is there anything in your life that is preventing you from enjoying the full blessing of the Lord today? Confess and repent of it.

As vs 27 says “Depart from evil and do good, So you will abide forever.”

Note: The scriptures printed in this lesson come from the *New American Standard Bible (NASB)* La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1986.

DON’T FORGET TO PRAY FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



This week at Faith

June 7-11

from 9 am til Noon