

# Family TableTalk

Conversation 04

## Where Can we Find the Goodness of God?

read

*Psalm 73*

think

It has become clear that during this time of quarantine, a lot of our students and children are thinking about big questions with regards to evil, suffering, and justice. Just recently, I had a student wrestling with a sense of doubt in the goodness of God as he thought about all of the people who are suffering under the weight of the pandemic quarantine and social distancing orders. He told me that it didn't seem fair that people who are going to be hit the hardest are people who can't really afford it. His concerns rang familiar to me, and then I remembered that Asaph, the Psalmist, had some of the same concerns here in Psalm 73. Asaph is wrestling with why there are some who spurn God who seem to live really successful lives, and for the first 16 verses, you can see the turmoil in Asaph as he wrestles with this question of evil and suffering. But in verse 17, Asaph's heart is changed and transformed. He enters into the sanctuary and presence of God, and there he is reassured of God's goodness and his justice. Asaph's heart is transformed as he is convicted of his jealousy towards those who have much, and he recognizes that he has been too busy chasing after the gifts of God rather than the Lord himself, the giver of such gifts. Asaph's encounter with the Lord in his sanctuary leaves him with a greater desire to know the Lord himself, and Asaph finds in the Lord a deep well of joy and pleasure. He is also reassured of God making all things right in the end, and even though he doesn't get a step by step breakdown or justification for the "why" concerning evil and suffering, he does receive more of God himself, and that's where Asaph finds the ultimate good. He says that it's "good to be near God", and this is one of the greatest opportunities we have as we quarantine together. We might not be able to discuss and find the answer for all of the suffering being endured right now, but we can press into being near to God because Jesus Christ has redeemed us so that we can confidently "draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16)

apply

- Who are the people that you're concerned and worried for during this pandemic? How can we pray for them?
- How is Asaph's struggle with the Lord resolved? How can we model his approach with the Lord during this time?
- Where have you seen glimpses of the goodness of God during this season of life?

pray

Lord, give us eyes during this pandemic to see that our pursuits have often been more about obtaining your gifts rather than treasuring the gift-giver. Help us to find more joy in who you are during this time, as we seek to know you more during this family devotional.

**by Kevin Yi**

Kevin Yi is a veteran youth pastor of 16+ years and is a regular contributor to the Rooted Ministry blog and YouTube channel at [www.rootedministry.com](http://www.rootedministry.com).

[cpyu.org](http://cpyu.org)  **CPYU**  
CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING

© 2020 Center For Parent/Youth Understanding