

Day – 1**Title: Don't Worry**

Text: *Don't worry about the wicked or envy those who do wrong. (v.1)*

David, the author of this psalm, understood the human tendency to become frustrated and disheartened when evil people prosper. Yet, through his own experiences, David learned the importance of trusting in God and His ultimate justice and timing. Trusting in God's justice requires patience and a long-term perspective. It's about believing that God has plans far greater than the immediate circumstances we see. This trust is built through a deep, personal relationship with God.

The command – “do not fret” encourages us to resist the urge to let worry and envy take root in our hearts. These emotions can lead to bitterness, anxiety and a weakened trust in God's provision.

Instead, believers are encouraged to focus on God's righteousness and His promises. In everyday life, it's easy to see how some people seem to get ahead through dishonest means. Whether it's through lying, cheating or other unethical behaviors, their success can be distressing to those who strive to live righteously. David reassures us that this success is temporary. God's justice will prevail, and the fleeting gains of the wicked will ultimately come to nothing.

A key aspect of discipleship is spiritual endurance. Jesus Himself warned that following Him would not always be easy, saying, “In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). This echoes the message of Psalm 37:1, encouraging believers to stay firm in their faith, even when it seems like those who reject God's ways are thriving.

In conclusion, Psalm 37:1 is a powerful reminder to maintain our peace and trust in God, even when faced with the apparent success of the wicked. It calls us to resist worry and envy, focusing instead on God's righteousness and His promises.

- David Kunselman (Bio-Major Freshman at Penn State University)

Day – 2**Title: For Like the Grass**

Text: *For like grass, they soon fade away. Like spring flowers, they soon wither.*

When I read this verse, my first thought is nothing lasts forever in this world. The grass eventually withers, and the plants will soon die. Everything on this earth is temporary, including plants, animals and people. God is the only constant in this world. People will disappoint us, but God is always there for us. We just need to allow Him in our life.

When Eve disobeyed God and took a bite from the fruit from the tree of knowledge, sin and wickedness entered the world. However wickedness and wicked people will be gone like spring flowers. The grass and plants may look lush and beautiful, they do not last. It is the same with evil people it might look like they are doing great but the truth is they will soon be gone.

May be it is tempting to turn to people or worldly goods and get caught up in the here and now. Its human nature to want and desire what the world says is important such as money, fame and power to name a few. However, none of that lasts. You can't take money or material things when you leave this earth. Fame and power will not help you enter the kingdom of heaven.

We need to recognize that everything on earth is fleeting except God. We need to turn away from the wicked and look to God! David made mistakes but he knew his God was there. David asked God for guidance, forgiveness and protection. We too need to ask our heavenly Father for guidance, forgiveness and protection. By praying and reading our Bible, we will develop a closer relationship to God. We need to put God first in our lives.

We need to turn our eyes upon Jesus, so we are not tempted with the desires of the world.

Grass will wither and plants will die, but God is always there.

“He must become greater; I must become less.” John 3:30

- Becky Kunselman (Domestic Engineer)

Day – 3

Title: **Trust in the LORD**

Text: *Trust in the LORD and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. (v.3)*

Trusting someone results with time well-spent. If we have to become Disciples of Jesus then we need to spend time with the Lord which will eventually lead us to trust Him beyond doubt. We will be rest assured that He will lead us to the best. David followed God and it was his personal experience. He knew his God so well that he trusted Him and did good as a ruler of the nation.

Before he could get to the throne he was an ordinary shepherd. He spent a lot of his time in the wilderness with his sheep. He made those lone times to connect with God. He used his harp and sang to the Lord. He praised His handiwork and marveled at His splendor and glory. He was joyful about the Lord and did his best with the care of sheep. Such sustained time with the Lord made him who he was and God made a choice of him.

God raised him up from being a shepherd to the state head. Probably David did not even dream about it. But God had His plans executed for him. He had an amazing life with God and he lived safely and prospered in the place where God honored him as king.

Could such a thing be true for us if we are Disciples of Jesus? Certainly, yes! God honors those who honor Him by giving their lone times to Him. As we spend time reading His Word our knowledge about Christ Jesus increases which in turn enhances our trust in God. As we continue to remain in Christ we can see ourselves being rooted in the place where God has placed us. We dwell in safety trusting God reflecting His virtues through our living.

When God becomes part of our life we are personified with His goodness. It radiates through us in all aspects of life.

Trust in the Lord and live well. Amen!

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 4

Title: **Make Good Choices!**

Text: *Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you your heart's desires.*

As we go through life in this world, we must make choices every day about almost everything. “Hit the snooze button or get up?” “What will we eat for breakfast?” “Decaf or regular coffee?” And on and on. Many of the decisions that we must make are fairly inconsequential. They only impact our immediate situation. But there are more serious choices that we face. Those choices are likely to have a long term impact for us or even for others. Looking at Psalm 37, the author encourages us to make good choices about our relationship with God. The Psalm writer contrasts the lives of those who choose to ignore God and His ways with those who choose to follow God. When we look at the lives of those who do not follow God, it may appear to us that they are better off. But we must not be deceived by “appearances.” In the long run there will be unfortunate and painful consequences for those who choose the way of wickedness.

Verse 4 challenges us to “Take delight in the LORD...” In the Garden of Eden, Eve was challenged by the Tempter to see joy and goodness in something other than what God had commanded. God had warned, “*You may freely eat any fruit in the garden except fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will surely die*” (Gen 2:16-17). But the Tempter said, “*You won’t die...You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil*” (Gen 3:4-5). The woman saw that the fruit looked fresh and delicious and would make her wise. So she ate it and gave it to her husband. Choosing disobedience resulted in alienation from God, her husband, and the beautiful garden which God had created for them. In our verse for today, the Psalmist challenges us to find delight, joy, contentment in the way of the LORD. If we make that choice, there will be great reward for us. “*He will give you your heart’s desires.*” We are not to understand that this is a promise of great material riches or wealth. This is not a promise that our self-centered desires will be granted. When we choose to find joy and delight in the LORD, our desires will be changed. When God changes our heart, we will desire the things that God wants to give us, the things that honor God and expand His influence in the world. This is one of those serious choices that will impact us for the rest of our lives, and will impact others. Choose wisely! - Mark Hosler (Retired Missionary, Haiti Churches of GOD)

Day – 5

Title: **Commit to the LORD**

Text: *Commit everything you do to the LORD. Trust him, and he will help you.*

The word commit means you make a promise to someone or something. Commit may mean different things to different people. A couple of examples are marriage and an athlete. Marriage is one way to promise or commit to another person until death parts them. An athlete may commit to a specific sport or team, giving their word that they will stay with that team. Commit is a verb where you do something. Commit is more than just words, it is action.

When you commit to the Lord, you're telling the Lord, you will do it His way. You will not do what you think you should do. You will not do what society says you should do. You will commit to do what God says to do. How is this accomplished? We start by committing our life to God. We read our Bible daily. If we're unsure of what we read, research it or talk to someone who may be able to help you understand it. Next, pray to God. As a parent, I love when my sons come to me with concerns, hopes and dreams. I imagine our heavenly Father feels the same way when we come to Him with our concerns, hopes and dreams, etc.

After committing to the Lord, we need to trust Him. We may not understand what's going on. We may not understand God's timing. Sometimes we just see what's going on around us, like tunnel vision. However, God's timing isn't our timing. God sees the bigger picture. We need to trust God that He is doing what's best for His children. The best part is when we see His plan unfold!

As we commit to the Lord and trust in our Lord, we will develop a stronger relationship with our heavenly Father. Hopefully we'll be able to reflect our actions so others will see how strong our relationship with God is and desire the same type of relationship.

- Becky Kunselman (Domestic Engineer)

Day – 6

Title: **Shine with the Right Standing**

Text: *He will make your innocence radiate like the dawn, and the justice of your cause will shine like the noonday sun. (v.6)*

“I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.” (Romans 16:19) This was Paul’s suggestion to the Roman Church. It is so well reflected in the life of David.

David as a shepherd was innocent taking good care of his father’s sheep. He didn’t have to think about anything except his herd. He was meticulous with what was entrusted to him. He was willing to risk his life to protect his flock. On occasions he did fight the lion and the bear. He was triumphant in saving them from the savage beasts. God honored David for his virtue of being responsible and doing the right work of protecting the vulnerable animals under his care.

In a world filled with evil God expects us to remain innocent in whatever we do. It will be a dawn of hope for the hopeless. Our innocence of evil will lead to a right standing because we know the truth. The people of the world hold to a relativistic truth therefore what might be right for you would certainly be wrong for them and vice versa. As Disciples of Christ we have the absolute truth, therefore we are called to have right standing and never for the wrong. Even when the whole world stands against you, you still have to stay firm. Such firm standing will be like the noonday Sun brightening lives.

It doesn’t matter what the weather condition be like, the Sun shines despite the sky being cloudy, foggy, snowy or rainy. So should we be if we are Disciples of Christ, nothing should change our virtue because we have Jesus who is the absolute truth.

Let us shine for Jesus with the right standing even if none take our side. Amen.

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 7

Title: **Be Still**

Text: *Be still in the presence of the LORD, and wait patiently for him to act. Don't worry about evil people who prosper or fret about their wicked schemes.*

The phrase “Be still” is repeated multiple times within the Bible. I picture myself as a child before the Lord waiting patiently for him to tell a story. Hanging on to His every word and excited to see what He does.

The Bible contains many examples of the wicked schemes of man doing their best to overtake the power of the Lord. King Saul schemed against David and tried to kill him after the people sang King Saul the slayer of thousands and David the Slayer of tens of thousands. David was the man after God's own heart. Saul's wicked plans eventually led to his death and David assumed his place as king.

It is sometimes difficult to be still. Being still can bring uncomfortable feelings to the surface and make us face thoughts we try to avoid by staying busy. Being still before the Lord is the perfect time to give those thoughts to the Lord and let Him transform them. Do not fret, look to the countless times in the Bible that God's love has prevailed when His people turned their hearts to God to save them from the evil in their world.

Being a disciple of the Lord will expose us to the people of the world that object to our beliefs, oppose our beliefs and try to change hearts. We must be steadfast before the Lord and trust that He will help us overcome the evil we face. Be still knowing that God prevails. I have fought many thoughts of doubt, voices in my mind that tell me I am not good enough or holy enough to do God's work. When this happens, I pray and give those thoughts to God and He has come through for me every time. God's intention for our lives is good.

The evil will be loud and obnoxious. God's voice is a gentle whisper that is sometimes hard to hear amongst all of the chaos in this world. Let's get tuned to God's whisper.

- Megan Piszker (Registered Nurse at Penn Highlands)

Day – 8

Title: **Stop being Angry**

Text: *Stop being angry! Turn from your rage! Do not lose your temper—it only leads to harm.*
(v.8)

Sin, evil and wickedness came into the world with the bite of a forbidden fruit. Seeing all this evil can cause constant worry and fretting, especially when it afflicts the innocent. Tempers flare with emotion. Anger and rage are out of control. But according to the David Jeremiah Study Bible, the Hebrew word translated fret is chara, "which speaks of growing warm and blazing up". To fret or worry is to be concerned with things over which one has no control or ability to change. That kind of worry, according to Scripture, is sin.

David saw how anger took control of King Saul. Jealousy of David's popularity filled King Saul with worry. He boiled with anger and rage, filled with fear of David taking the throne. But David did not seek the throne on his own, that was God's desire. It was King Saul's disobedience to God that caused him to fall out of favor with God. Instead of asking for forgiveness and repenting of his ways, Saul allowed anger to destroy his life and his family.

As a shepherd boy, David learned to trust in God. He learned to care for his sheep as God cared for him. He found joy in spending time with God. He was committed to giving his life to God. He learned to be still and to wait for God to act. God was teaching him and David was listening. Young David didn't know what the future would hold. But when he was being chased by an angry King Saul, he stayed committed to trusting God. Psalm 145:20 he wrote, The Lord protects all those who love him, but he destroys the wicked.

As Disciples of Jesus, let us be like that shepherd boy. Disciplined in reading the Scriptures, spending time with God and learning from him. Doing what he asks us to do. Bringing peace and calm to a noisy, angry world by showing them Jesus.

Romans 12:21 - Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

- Peggy Fairman (Care Giver, Senior Assist Services)

Day – 9

Title: **Zeal for GOD**

Text: *For the wicked will be destroyed, but those who trust in the LORD will possess the land.*

The God of Israel have always made a distinction between good and evil. Good always had its association with God while the evil had its association with the devil. David was so precise in declaring that the wicked will be destroyed. What made him say so? He was aware as a young teenager. He had an unexpected chance to deal with the giant Goliath an uncircumcised Philistine who challenged the people of the God of Hebrews.

Though David was anointed to become the ruler he was not a trained soldier as his brothers were. He could not stand the mockery of the Philistine while he was on a mission to give away food to his brothers who were in the war front. David's zeal for his God consumed him and he was unable to bear the disgusting threat. He inquired of the giant and was ready to face him. For David knew God would destroy the wicked because Goliath had no God in his life.

The only strength that David had was his God of Armies. As an untrained warrior he killed the giant with God's power and wisdom. He knew God fought for him and that was why he declared that he came in the name of the God of Heaven's Armies. His victory was a result of his zeal for God and it brought him the fame which he did not even expect. His unshakable trust in God enabled him to become a ruler after 15 years and rule the land for 40 years.

Lent is a season to ponder on our zeal for God. What consumes us? God or the World. If we are Godless no doubt we will become wicked. But if we dearly hold to God sure enough we will possess what God has entrusted to our care.

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 10

Title: **God can Use Anyone and Everyone**

Text: *Soon the wicked will disappear. Though you look for them, they will be gone.*

We look around and something has happened. Good is now called bad and bad is now called good! We have become divided. There is so much evil in our land and we do not even know where it has come from or how it got so bad. We forgot to keep watch and somehow evil slipped in among us. At first, it was in disguise, and we accepted it; we didn't see it; then we did, but to be agreeable, we ignored it; then we tried to tolerate it; now, even though we see it for what it is—pure evil, we are expected to accept it and yield to it. It has over-powered us!

But yet wait...LORD, you asked us to repent from our wicked ways and YOU promised to hear us from heaven and forgive us and YOU would heal our land. (as in 2 Chronicles 7:14)

God at the right time replaced King Saul with David. So as He done to our nation and will continue to do for those who seek the Lord. A righteous God-Fearing nation begins with righteous God-Fearing People. David brought back the Ark of the Covenant and God honored his action and blessed his reign. He had his focus on God. God can use each and every one of us if we turn to Him. Discipling every one who believes in Jesus can bring about divine transformation.

I look forward to the Day – the day in the near future when we will look around and the evil will not be found. It will not be seen in our schools, once as disciples we make a stand. It will not be in the news or in the commercials. We will not find it in the shows that we watch or in the places that we shop. It just will not be found. Disciples in these areas will stand up to make a change! It will spread like a raging wild fire as Your people are being called.

We praise our HEAVENLY FATHER, along with HIS MIGHTY WAYS!

How will you use me today Lord?

- Ruth Reitz (Secretary & Treasurer, Henderson Township)

Day – 11

Title: **Lowly but in the LORD**

Text: *The lowly will possess the land and will live in peace and prosperity.*

David was lowly since he cared for his father's herd while the other brothers were soldiers in King Saul's army. The brothers were trained and skilled but David was not he was away and out in the field for weeks on end. Nevertheless he was happy in his lowly status because he had developed a relationship with God which eventually turned his life around.

For years I rented houses and moved quite a bit. But that can be unsettling after a while. So I decided to buy my own home and put down roots in one place. I look at what I have now and am thankful that I have what I have now. It's not much but its home. If we focus on God He will give us all we need to live on this earth. We can trust that He will take care of all our needs. We shouldn't worry about where we are living or what we have to live on. God will provide as long as we ask Him and trust in his goodness.

Over the years of my life I have had some really bad things happen to me. I worried that I wouldn't be able to provide all the needs of my family. I felt inadequate and a bit of a failure. I sensed I was a lot low at times. But I prayed and trusted God to see me through. When I would pray and give it to God it turned that chaos into a peace in my heart knowing God was in control and would see me through it. And by His love and grace we had all we needed to live and be content.

David's sustained relationship with God rose him to be a ruler of the nation and during his reign there was peace and prosperity for everyone. There is nothing wrong in being lowly but if we have the higher connection with our Lord Jesus we will have peace. One day we will inherit a new land, a home in heaven with the Lord Jesus. A perfect home. Jesus said he will give us a mansion in heaven one day. Then we will be settled in a peaceful place with God and have all we need.

- Briana Copeland (Food Processor at Stello Foods)

Day – 12**Title: Gnashing of Teeth**

Text: *The wicked plot against the godly; they snarl at them in defiance.*

Gnashing of teeth brings terror to mind. In Greek it means final judgment of sinners. In a general slang it is a sign of extreme anger that can invoke deadly fear. The wicked person's intent is to bring fear. They will sneer and lie and sneak to distract us and pull us from our Heavenly Father.

Think of the Pharisees and the Sadducees in the New Testament. The Jewish law had been embellished by humans. They used this law to attempt to trap Jesus in his teachings and his work. They ignored the prophecy of Isaiah prophesying that Christ would come and live among us. They were threatened by the Power of God that came when Christ came to teach and save this world. In John chapter 8, the religious leaders tried to trap Jesus when they brought the woman who committed adultery before him. Jesus said "*Let the one who is free of sin be the first to throw the stone.*" The woman looked up and her accusers had all scattered. He told her to go and sin no more. Jesus thwarted their gnashing of teeth and saved the woman from her sin.

In becoming disciples we must ignore the gnashing of teeth. In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were thrown into Prison. They praised God while in the depths of prison, God shook the foundations of the prison and opened the prison doors. He released their shackles and used them as a witnesses to the power of the Lord. It brought the Jailer and his household to believe in the Lord and be Baptized. What perfect witness to God's love and power.

Praising God through the trials of this life and being a witness to his love is of utmost importance in bringing others to his love. Even if the wicked gnash their teeth at us we don't have to fear since God is with us. We face many wicked intentions every day. Forgive these people, let God lead our thoughts and help us to be a good disciple to others.

Look up to God and away from those gnashing their teeth.

- Megan Piszker (Registered Nurse at Penn Highlands)

Day – 13

Title: **Judgment for the Wicked is Certain**

Text: *But the Lord just laughs, for he sees their day of judgment coming. (v.13)*

Romans 8:31 declares, “If God is for us who can be against us?” This statement is an affirmation for those who pledge allegiance to follow after Christ. God will not spare the ungodly who wants to take the Godly for a task.

The text describes God laughing at those who try their best to waylay His people. They don't realize that they are trying their foolish act with His people. God is very possessive of His people. David knew it since it was God who led the prophet to anoint him as King of Israel. It wasn't the desire of David, it was God's. Therefore he was aware of the judgment to come upon the wicked.

As a true follower of Jesus if you go through some of the tough times because of the evil people you don't have to panic since God is in control of the situation you are in. People often turn out evil for the simple reason they become jealous of your life in God. David had a hard time with Saul being jealous of him and his anointing to become a king in place of him. But remember the Lord is surely not going to spare the one who took you for a task. He will certainly deal with them as their deeds deserve.

Romans 12:19 quotes, “Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, “I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the LORD.”

Let go of the wicked and their wickedness, God will deal it! Amen

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 14

Title: **Trouble is Inevitable**

Text: *The wicked draw their swords and string their bows to kill the poor and the oppressed, to slaughter those who do right. (v.14)*

Lack of the presence of God in people's life can lead them to unmatched wickedness devoid of any moral consciousness. It is pivotal to have God in our lives. It is a misery when you do not have Christ Jesus. However people have failed to realize the need for Him and end up in a mess messing those around them.

David rightly pointed that the wicked draw their swords and string their bows to kill the poor and the oppressed. They are ever ready to destroy the people who stand for truth. Why do these wicked people take on the poor and the marginal? The reason is simple, they are the ones who cannot fight back. These evil people can never try their schemes with the rich and the famed because these people can crush and kill them. But what the evil ones have failed to be aware is – God is on the side of the vulnerable. He will ensure that they are taken care from these abuses. Also God will not let the wicked go unpunished for their wrong deeds.

David ran for his life. He did have opportunity to pin down Saul but he dare didn't do that for the simple reason he was anointed of God. David honored God and His anointing upon His people though Saul slipped away from God. David indeed was exemplary to his soldiers because they were ready to slay his enemy with one spear shot but he did not allow them to take it on Saul. He shared the reason for his action. He was honorable which Saul even declared when he knew he was spared so closely.

Remember if you love Jesus and surely follow Him trouble is inevitable but do nothing on your impulse because God cares for His people and brings justice to them.

Troubled – you have a troubleshooter, wait for Him. Amen

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 15

Title: **Falling on the Sword**

Text: *But their swords will stab their own hearts, and their bows will be broken.*

In 1 Samuel 31:1-13, King Saul died by his own sword to avoid torture by the Philistine's, as did his armor bearer. This passage shows an illustration of the wicked ready for battle to bring down the needy. The wicked and evil doers will not succeed in the eyes of the Lord. They will be punished for their evil deeds whether it be here on earth first or at the time of death and facing God's pure judgment.

Judas committed suicide after betraying Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. In Exodus, Pharaoh's son was killed as a result of one of the plagues that God placed on Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let God's people go.

Hitler died by suicide after oppressing and attempting genocide against the Jews.

Pulling back a bow that is broken will result in the one using the bow being hurt instead of its intended target. A broken bow is powerless. Our Enemies are powerless against an all-powerful God.

The cowards and evil doers will be led to their own judgment. As disciples let us be an example to always be accountable to God and let judgment of others and their evil ways be up to the Lord. We do not need to seek revenge on those who seek to do evil. God will take care of them.

Let us seek Jesus as an example of how-to disciple others. Teach them to seek God's love and justice and not their own. For when we give it to God, his justice is made perfect.

- Megan Piszker (Registered Nurse at Penn Highlands)

Day – 16

Title: **Better to be Godly**

Text: *It is better to be godly and have little than to be evil and rich.*

This verse is saying that it is far better for us to act as good Christians and be poor than to be rich and not treat others well.

Sometimes in our lives we see people who are well off flaunt their wealth with possessions and their attitudes are sounding like they think they are better than those who are not in the same economic bracket that they are. They act snobbish and can literally shun people of a lower stature than they are. They buy things to show off all the money they have and don't want to lift a finger to help those in need. They can be very mean and condescending to others. Some can even go so far as to use their wealth and power to get people to do what they want them to do.

David was man of the soil unlike Saul who hailed from a rich home. Besides anything David had God in his life while Saul was once Godly but pride took over. David's Godly nature was evident in all circumstances. His delight was his Lord and that was why God honored David when he played the harp to alleviate Saul from the torment of the spirit. He was nowhere near the king in any of his status. But was Godly. In the same way there are people who don't have a lot of possessions but because of the little they have they know what it is like to be in need. As a result they tend to want to help others more out of the little they have to try to help others who have some of the same needs. Some even give their time and try to help others by talking to and listening to others which may be the only way they can make someone feel better.

As a disciple of Jesus Christ we all should give of our time and money through tithes so that we can help bring the Word of God to those around us. Living godly lives will show that we are rich in the glory of God's love and grace. People will see then that God loves them.

- Briana Copeland (Food Processor at Stello Foods)

Day – 17

Title: **GOD Cares for the Godly**

Text: *For the strength of the wicked will be shattered, but the LORD takes care of the godly.*

Throughout this Psalm David describes the way God deals with His people. He brings out the difference of God's dealing with the wicked and the righteous people. It is so ironic to note that to destroy someone you need enormous strength and energy whereas to serve someone you only need a kind heart. David probably was amazed at the way Saul acted towards him. David did not do anything to evoke Saul's anger it was his own insecurity that led him to behave beastly.

We live in a world that promotes Godlessness. Saul became Godless even without his own knowledge. These days' people concentrate themselves on being good. No one realizes that without God there can be nothing good since He is the source of all goodness. David was not good; he was as human as anyone. But he had God reign his life therefore he was able to remain good in situations beyond his human capability.

Whether it was a Lion or a Bear or King Saul God protected him and it was not his skill or strength. He could have put down Saul when he was unaware and was under his mercy but David feared God and so he spared Saul. I would call this act of David not as goodness but as Godness. Fullness of God in David made him let go of Saul from being killed. During these periods of peril he knew God was in control and would fulfill what He promised at His time. Despite difficulties he enjoyed God's care.

There were also seasons where David was Godless. His adulterous affair with Bathsheba and heinous crime of killing her husband Uriah says it all. However the best part with him was he was willing and was able to turn back to God in repentance. Such turning around made him Godly for God to care.

Are we good or Godly?

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 18

Title: **Innocent Inherit**

Text: *Day by day the LORD takes care of the innocent, and they will receive an inheritance that lasts forever.*

The Lord expects his children to be holy, which can be interpreted as innocent or blameless. He keeps an eye on us and provides us with all our necessities every day and will give us an eternal blessing as a result of living holy.

After we moved to the United States as a family, I decided to join the high school to finish up with my senior year. I knew no one from the school since it had only been about two months since I've lived in PA. At this time, I worked at the Chipotle near our house. I remember seeing this one kid getting hired a few weeks before school started. We never crossed paths since I worked mornings, and he worked evening. When school was about to begin, I changed my schedule to work evenings. At this point I had an opportunity to work with this guy named Elijah. Although I usually run the line this time, they had me prep for the next day. Both of us were given the fun task of peeling onions. We get to talking and found out that we had classes together. I was very thrilled to hear that and finally felt relieved since I was worried on what to expect. This story reminds me of this passage, especially the first half where it says “day by day the Lord takes care of the innocent”.

We are expected to live holy just as our God who is holy (1 Peter 1:16). A few ways to live holy,

- Be rooted in the word since this will help us identify the truth and unholiness among us.
- Work on pursuing a continual relationship with God.
- Ask God to help us fix the unholiness present within us.

David's genuine desire to repent when he was wrong and getting right with God made him a man after God's own heart. He sought God's help to remain holy. Let's look to – The Only Holy God.

- Timothy John (Pre-med Student at Penn West University, Clarion)

Day – 19

Title: **The Blameless are Not Put to Shame**

Text: *they [the blameless] are not put to shame in evil times; in the days of famine they have abundance. (v.19)*

Many times the scriptures point out King Saul meant to hurt David. King Saul had unlimited resources in order to carry out his evil plans. Therefore, King Saul should easily have been successful at taking David's life. However, a blameless David was divinely protected by God. And, not only was David protected, but he and those with him also had their needs met.

King Saul's hatred of David peaked when the people publicly celebrated David in honor of his victories in battle. King Saul felt threatened by David's popularity even though David had only done as the King had asked. David was pursued by the King and had been close to being captured many times. Yet, when David had the chance to take the King's life, he did not.

David's men did not understand. They would not have thought twice about killing King Saul if given the opportunity. I'm not sure I would have understood David's restraint either. After all, David knew he would be king someday. It would have been easy to justify the actions of taking King Saul's life and the throne! But, David knew he was innocent in these matters and trusted God to handle the future, even if it meant waiting for God's timing to become king.

David's actions were Godly examples to his men which showcased how much David trusted God with his life and his future. Do you have people around you that mistreat and disrespect you? Do they want to discredit your character and ridicule the good that you have done? Can you look beyond their uncalled for actions and realize that it was God that had placed you in the right position, at the right time? And, it was God that provided what was needed for the good that you did? Can you trust that it is God that will protect and provide for you? And, can you refrain from retaliating in ways that the world would expect? Look to God for strength and be a strong example for the world around you. Continue to remain blameless and trust God for the outcome!

- Ellen Neyman (Former Business Manager Brookville School District)

Day – 20

Title: **The Wicked will Perish**

Text: *But the wicked will die. The LORD's enemies are like flowers in a field—they will disappear like smoke.*

This verse in CSD version uses the term “the glory of the pastures.” Think of a field in the peak of its beauty and how many flowers and colors are seen. Now when we look at social media and the news, we see so many people who are successful but aren't living a life in Christ. Why do these people seem so successful but do not believe in God?

In the New Testament Matthew 19 Jesus tells about how hard it is for the rich man to enter heaven. The rich seem as numerous as the flowers of the field. The ones that use their status to influence and create evil, while we as Christians do our very best to live a Godly life. Their houses are numerous and beautiful, yet the fire of God will consume them just as a fire would consume a field of dried-up flowers and crops. They are parched of the Lord's love and easily burned by fire.

As disciples of God, let our souls be quenched with His love. As we consume God's word and quench our souls with His love, let that love spill over and water the ones thirsty for his word. Be saturated so much by His word, reading it daily, that we overflow on those around us. Pay no attention to the wicked around you that are prospering but don't know God. If they don't know God, they cannot fully enjoy the blessings that he gives, nor enjoy an eternal life.

You cannot take one single thing with you to heaven. The beautiful mansions will stay behind, the fame will stay behind, and the soul will be tossed to Hell if it is dry and does not know God. Live a life quenched by God's love and we will enjoy His eternal beauty in heaven.

- Megan Piszker (Registered Nurse at Penn Highlands)

Day – 21

Title: **Godly are Generous**

Text: *The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers.*

Human beings are always ‘under the influence’ under the influence of somebody all of the time. The question of concern should be whose influence are we under? If we are truly influenced by God and His perspectives we will be generous without doubt. Because God did not spare His own Son, He was generous to give Him away as an atoning sacrifice so we could be connected with God again. If we follow God we will obviously be influenced by His virtues.

Why did David declare the wicked borrow and never repay? Those who do not have God cannot be trusted for anything. They may want to remain good but the goodness would eventually wear down since God is absent. Does it mean the Godly do not borrow? The truth is yes. The Godly are contented with what they possess and they have a balance. If you cannot handle life with what you earn, you are messed up. The godless bid beyond their budget because they lack the fear of God. They hardly know their limits and are unwise in their way of living.

The Godly are generous because God blesses them. They are stewards of what God has entrusted to them. The book of 1 Samuel 30 portrays David’s generosity, 200 of his men were too exhausted to go on to raid the Amalekites but they stayed behind and guarded the equipment. David was victorious and returned with the plunders but some selfish people among the soldiers did not want to share booty but David was firm and declared, “We share and share alike – those who go to the battle and those who guard the equipment.” He made a decree and regulation about the same. (1 Samuel 30:21-25). His generosity was so evident since he was Godly.

Are we generous? Or are we like David’s soldier examining if they deserve to receive generously? Sometimes our generosity can truly lead people to Jesus.

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 22**Title: God's Blessing and Cursing**

Text: *Those the LORD blesses will possess the land, but those he curses will die.*

David was given the blessing of God throughout his life from the days of being a shepherd to being King of Israel. He was far from perfect, but he loved God. Spending time with God taught him to align his will to God's will. But there were times when he would forgo God's leading, to do things on his own. Some of his encounters could have led to disaster, if God had not intervened.

In 1 Samuel 25 is the story of David, Nabal and Abigail. David sent a message to a wealthy man named Nabal. David asked for provisions for himself and his 600 men who had protected Nabal's shepherds in the fields and had not harmed them in any way. But Nabal was a wicked man, crude and mean in his dealings and refused this simple act of hospitality and generosity. Nabal's reply angered David, and he was ready to take vengeance into his own hands. But God blessed Nabal's wife Abigail with wisdom to diffuse a situation that would have brought about senseless bloodshed. God gave blessings to the innocent that day. But like his name, Nabal's foolish actions were the cause for his demise. His end came because of his sin and hardness of heart, cutting him off from God completely.

So who are the people that the Lord blesses? David calls them the righteous, those in right standing with God. Those who are generous and lend freely, who wait for the Lord and keep his way. The ones who do not rely on themselves or others but put their hope in the Lord. And trust him completely. The meek and the peacemakers. David knew that following God would bring blessings far greater than any treasures he had acquired on earth. He was looking forward to an eternal inheritance. For the righteous will inherit the land and dwell in it forever. That is the promise for all who receive salvation through Jesus. If we are Disciples of Jesus, we need to spend time in prayer and putting God's word into our hearts and minds each day and that should be a priority in our lives. Let others see God living in you.

- Peggy Fairman (Care Giver, Senior Assist Services)

Day – 23

Title: **The Steps of the Godly**

Text: *The LORD directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives.*

God's plans are to prosper us; to give us a good future. As God's children, we are His greatest creation. The love He has for us is beyond our human comprehension. We are so important that He delights in every detail of our lives. Nothing we do or say goes unnoticed.

As Christ followers, the misconception is that we will never stumble or face difficulties. However, God ensures us that He will be with us through all of our challenges and shortcomings. King David's story is the perfect example of God's unwavering love. David was a man who devoted his life to God, and he was human. He was sinful. He made terrible decisions. He also cried out to God in repentance. Despite his flaws, David sought God's favor and forgiveness. He never let the bad things in life turn him from God.

When we experience hardship is God still directing our steps? Absolutely! There will be times that we make mistakes and go the wrong way. Our flaws remind us how much we need God's grace; we often see God clearer when we are walking through a valley.

God doesn't want us to be perfect before being a disciple. Showing others that it is God who gets us through the trials of life is the truest testament to who He is. As David did, we should use our downfalls and mistakes to encourage people to trust in God. The future may be uncertain to us, but it is not uncertain to God. We need to continue to seek God's direction for our lives, daily.

When God is our guiding light, He shines through us for all to see. Amen!

- Tasha Manners (Elementary School Teacher)

Day – 24

Title: **The LORD Holds His People**

Text: *Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the LORD holds them by the hand.*

Often we find ourselves the subject of others jealousy. It is sometimes easy to just give up and pity ourselves because of what others are saying or thinking. Satan loves when we get caught up when we are the object of someone's ill will. Satan is such a wily creature – if he loses the battle for our soul, he still loves to keep it from experiencing the joy of the Lord that living for Him gives us. True joy comes from being a child of God and under His care.

When we fall down, He picks us up and guides us to the right path again. None can express this aspect of falling like David can since he fell but got back again when he turned to God. God never turned him away. He willingly restored him.

We all make mistakes and fall short of Gods will; but He forgives and never stops loving us. If we ask for forgiveness, He is quick to extend forgiveness. All He asks is that we love Him with all of our hearts and reach out to Him when fallen. Falling isn't a problem but laying fallen surely is. God is our rescuer. David fell but when he was unaware of it God send a prophet to get him to his senses. Even when we fall and are oblivious of it God would always send someone to direct us or He will speak to us through His word or through His servant.

Reach out to Jesus and He will take your hand and walk with you.

- Carole Brosius (Retired, Pennsylvania Association for the Blind)

Day – 25

Title: **Trust in GOD doesn't Abandon Us**

Text: *Once I was young, and now I am old. Yet I have never seen the godly abandoned or their children begging for bread.*

This states that no matter your age God doesn't abandon you or leave your needs unmet if you trust him always.

As I was growing up there were times when we weren't sure if we were going to have all we needed. My father sometimes would be unemployed over the winter months for lack of work in his company usually happening right before Christmas. We didn't know if we were going to have much to make it through the cold winter months until he was able to have more work.

But we trusted God that we would make it through. And as it turned out there were times when we got home and found gifts of food and even a Christmas tree on our porch. And we always had enough to pull us through the tough cold winter months and have a good Christmas holiday. Eventually my father would be called back to work and we were doing ok again. We never had to go without or "beg for bread" because God always gave just enough to see us taken care of.

God always watched over us and my mother and father were able to give us what we needed and take care of us. And as I got older I have always believed that God would see me through all hard times.

David also trusted in God when he and his men were out alone and didn't know what to do. They were given the bread used for the temple as food to live on when they needed it most.

If we but trust in God and live for him He will provide all that we need. He will never abandon us. All we have to do is pray and trust in Him. Even in tough times he will watch over us and take care of us in all things. Amen!

- Briana Copeland (Food Processor at Stello Foods)

Day – 26

Title: **A Life of Generosity**

Text: *The godly always give generous loans to others, and their children are a blessing.*

Generosity is a way of life. Psalm 37:26 highlights the power of a giving heart and the blessings that flow from it. The first part of this verse speaks about the character of a generous person one who gives freely, without expecting anything in return. The second part assures that this generosity extends beyond the individual, bringing blessings upon their children. The Bible consistently emphasizes the importance of giving. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-9, Paul reminds the church in Corinth about sowing sparingly as against sowing generously. God loves a cheerful giver. Luke 6:38 echoes this truth: "Give, and it will be given to you." These verses affirm that generosity does not lead to lack; instead, it brings abundance and spiritual fulfillment.

Growing up, I have witnessed firsthand the power of cheerful giving. My parents have always prioritized giving setting aside their tithe before any other expense, supporting those in need, and trusting God with their finances. As a result, we have never lacked anything. Sometimes, God's blessings come in tangible ways unexpected financial provisions, job opportunities, or a long-awaited answer to prayer. Other times, His blessings are intangible peace, favor and a sense of fulfillment that money cannot buy.

There is also an aspect of faith in giving. It is easy to give when we have plenty, but true faith is revealed when we give even when we have little. God does not measure generosity by the amount we give but by the heart behind it. I have personally experienced it when I gave despite having very little, whether it was supporting a missionary or preparing small gift bags. Without fail, God has always provided back, often in unexpected ways through a refund, a surprise blessing, or an opportunity I never saw coming. Every time, what I received was more than what I gave. As we walk in generosity, we not only bless others but create a legacy for the next generation. Our acts of kindness and faithfulness will ripple beyond our lives, impacting our children and those around us. Let us continue to give with cheerful hearts, trusting that God's provision is never-ending and that His blessings flow in ways beyond imagination. (Tovia John)

Day – 27

Title: **Turn from Evil**

Text: *Turn from evil and do good, and you will live in the land forever.*

The Psalmist David wrote this Psalm as an advice to those people who desire to follow God for their life. One of the important aspect that he highlighted was asking people to turn from their evil ways. Why are human beings evil? Psalmist David again penned in Psalm 51:5 that he was conceived in sin. Does he mean that his mother had him illegitimately? Certainly not! David had been through a major sin setback with Bathsheba and schemed in killing her husband Uriah. He felt the weight of his sin as Nathan prophesied God's concern about his sinful behavior. In remorse he was venting his agony to God. In repentance he turned back to God again.

He knew he had the inherited sin – the original sin of the early parents that passed on through generations. The only way out of it was to repent and reconcile with God. David reconciled with God however he bore the consequence of his dreadful deed. When he set right with God, God gave family of his own and blessed him. He prospered in the land God placed him to live and rule.

David turning from his sinful ways in true repentance made him right with God. It is true for us too we are soaked in sin from our birth because of the original sin. Therefore, all of us have fallen short of the standard of God (Romans 3:23). Jesus was born, a sinless son of a virgin. All sinful beings have resolution in Jesus. In Romans 5:17 we understand we have received God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ.

Our restoration with Jesus and genuine repentance can transform our life. We will then turn from evil and do good. Once evil is gone good begins as God's goodness reigns us.

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 28

Title: **The LORD is Just**

Text: *For the LORD loves justice, and he will never abandon the godly. He will keep them safe forever, but the children of the wicked will die.*

As we continue our journey through Psalm 37, the writer continues to contrast the benefits of being righteous with the ultimate judgment for the wicked. In verse 28, he assures us that the LORD loves justice, and promises that God will never abandon the godly. There are many assurances in the Bible that God's love for those who are godly is unconditional and unending. "...nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 8:39). I once heard God's love expressed in this way: God will never love us any more than He does right now, and He will never love us any less than He does now. We cannot cause God to stop loving us or decrease His affection for us and we cannot force God to love us more than He already does. God's love for His children is unconditional and unending.

The Psalmist assures us that those who like God practice justice will be kept safe. The verse does not mean that we earn God's love when we practice justice. Instead, we are assured that when we choose the way of God, when we understand how God loves us, our behavior and lifestyle will match His character. This verse declares that God loves Justice. Justice is a behavior that is referred to often in Scripture. It was a favorite theme of the Prophets – to act justly (Micah 6:8). And practicing Justice was always evident in the life and ministry of Jesus. Justice refers to the way we are to behave toward others. He does not treat us the way we might deserve. Instead, He extends mercy, kindness and compassion toward us even to those who do not deserve such love. That is the way the godly will deal with others. And there are no limits on who should be the recipients of our acts of Justice. All those who are downtrodden, broken, victims should be treated with justice. Even those whose lifestyle we may disagree with or whose skin color, or language, or priorities may be different from us. The LORD loves when His people act with Justice toward others. If you have been the recipient of God's love and Justice, express that love and justice to others. - Mark Hosler (Retired Missionary & Pastor Churches of GOD)

Day – 29

Title: **Godly – a Distinctive**

Text: *The godly will possess the land and will live there forever.*

David has mentioned the word ‘Godly’ in Psalm 37 at least 13 times. Why does he emphasize it so much? What implication does it bear upon the reader? In general terms the word Godly denotes a person’s devout nature to a particular deity or a pious or a religious or a reverential adoration to God.

David adored God ever since he was young. In the wilderness he probably had none to converse so he communed with God through his music. He had developed a personal connect with God. He witnessed His provision and protection for his herd and became well acquainted with God and His might. His sustained relationship made him Godly and he was unable to concede with the Philistine’s defiance. He became outrageous and won him over. The zeal of God consumed David. His anointing to become king by Prophet Samuel was not in vain. His genuine feat against Goliath brought him an identity. Along with it, it did bring him trouble that he had to run for life.

However in all his ordeal God was with him. He led him through it. Eventually when he became king he reigned 40 years. He had favor, peace, victory, prosperity and what not. He lacked nothing since God took care of his reign. God honored him. Malachi 3:18 reinforces that God will show the difference between the righteous and the wicked and also the difference between those who serve God and those who do not.

As we meditate on Psalm 37 let us examine ourselves to see if we are Godly? It is not about the possession of land or the like as the text read. It is about us being men and women after God’s own heart. We are flawed but our savior Jesus rescues and restores us from all the flaws. He makes us Godly if we depend on Him.

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 30Title: **Be Righteous**Text: *The godly offer good counsel; they teach right from wrong.*

In James 3:1-12 we learn that the tongue is “a restless evil” that cannot be humanly tamed. So who are the righteous and how do they speak justice? In Romans 1:17 we are told, “The righteous shall live by faith.” And, in James 2:14-26 we read that faith is much more than just believing in God. Faith is acting on that belief.

The Bible lists Noah and Abraham among the righteous. Solomon comes to mind when we think of someone who utters wisdom and speaks justice. These prominent men all accomplished great things when they were following God’s instructions. But, these men weren’t born great. Their stories all started with the same pattern of consistent growth in their relationship with God.

It can be difficult to speak justice when you are in the midst of circumstances that are testing your faith, especially when your situation seemingly has no end and continues to get worse instead of better. It is hard to speak justice, when you’d really like to sit and complain. Job was described by God as blameless. How through all the bitter circumstances and bad advice from those close to him, did Job endure? It wasn’t because he could read ahead and know that God would bless him with even more than he had originally lost. It was his strong faith in God. A faith that was carried out daily before the crisis began. And, when that faith was tested, it held because it didn’t depend on good circumstances. It was built on a solid relationship with God.

Fortunately, righteousness and justice didn’t end with those written about in the Bible. God is alive today and continues to empower the righteous to speak justice. Are you striving to be righteous by building a relationship with God? Do you utter wisdom and do your words speak justice, no matter what circumstances you are living through? If you aren’t already attending a Sunday School class, I would invite you to join ours. Our study, Experiencing God: Knowing & Doing the Will of God, is a great way to build your relationship with God!

- Ellen Neyman (Former Business Manager Brookville School District)

Day – 31

Title: **GOD's Law Guides**

Text: *They have made God's law their own, so they will never slip from his path.*

Throughout Psalm 37, the writer has encouraged the righteous to do good and be godly. We may wonder what that looks like. The writer answers that question in the verse we are looking at today, (Vs. 31). Those who are godly are guided by the words of God's law, the Scriptures. There are people who behave in a way that they think will please the LORD. But we are not to "make up righteousness" on our own. We are to be guided by the word that God has given to us, the words of Scripture. Israel had entered into a covenant with the LORD. In that Covenant agreement, the LORD gave the people promises of how He would act toward them. But He also revealed to them the way they were to live for Him as His people. The 10 commandments are the starting point for righteous behavior.

In our Psalm today, the writer tells us that the godly will fill their hearts with the words of Scripture (God's law). We are then to live our lives in conformity to God's law (Scripture). This challenge is not for the people of Israel only, but for all people who choose to trust in the LORD and who choose to "take delight in Him". There are people who identify as Christians who choose to set aside the words of Scripture. They argue that the Bible is too Old Fashioned. We don't have to obey it any longer. But David declares that "God's word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path." If you want to honor and please God, hide His word in your heart and live it in your daily life.

- Mark Hosler (Retired Missionary & Pastor Churches of GOD)

Day – 32

Title: **Godly Struggle?!**

Text: *The wicked wait in ambush for the godly, looking for an excuse to kill them.*

Why do the Godly suffer? Is God so pessimistic? If God is good why then there is so much evil? These are some hard questions that we struggle to find answers and sometimes it weighs us down and shakes the foundation of our faith?

David went through turmoil ever since his anointing until then the troubles that he encountered were manageable. It wasn't too difficult. A life set apart for Christ draws the attention of everyone and they are eager to see your fall, if not they will find ways to destroy you. Especially if your life bears fruit for the Lord then the trouble is even worse. For David it was the song of praise of the slave girls after he killed Goliath. It triggered Saul so much. He was worked up so bad that he was terrified of a teenager who had become his rival. David has no such thought he was joyous because he saw God of Israel being glorified in the victory.

I am reminded of a scripture in John's gospel which should be the yard stick for us when we see someone jealous of us or in case we become jealous of others. John 3:27 quotes, "*No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven.*" The disciples of John was upset that Jesus was baptizing people on the other side of Jordan River. John had to explain his disciples that it was God-given and none can contest to it. The ungodly do not understand this proposition and therefore they get jealous of people. They do not know how to handle themselves seeing the growth of the Godly. So they try all kinds of mean ways to ensnare them. However the sad truth is – these people who try to destroy can do nothing because God comes in support of the Godly. The wicked need to know and be aware that the Godly enjoy the God-given while the wicked are far gone from God. It is their personal choice of unfollowing God.

If you are Godly your struggle is God-honoring! Amen.

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 33

Title: **The LORD Defends the Righteous**

Text: *but the Lord will not leave them in their power or let them be condemned when brought to trial.*

David is saying that the Lord will not allow them (the righteous) in their power (of the wicked) when brought to court. In ancient times, the wicked rich oppressed the poor and took them to court to obtain what little they had. Even the righteous could suffer from this treatment. In the end, though, believers will be justified (Romans 5:9), while the wicked who reject God will be condemned (Jude 1:14-15).

In this day and age, people are still looking for opportunities to get rich quick by finding ways to sue. Besides the big personal injury claims and large property demands in regular courts, the television features numerous shows containing cases of people trying to get their way for small claims like rent, damage from animal attacks, child support, unpaid or undelivered services, etc. I don't know what they have in mind to go on television where everyone can see how unwise they were in the first place by allowing themselves to get in these situations. Many times the one complaining is surprised to learn the judge sees through their ways and rules in favor of the defendant. I would like to think that in some cases this is God intervening, but whether this is the case or not, we know that in the end those faithful who are falsely accused will be acquitted.

We need to be careful not to allow ourselves to get into situations where we can be accused of wrongdoing by seeking peaceful resolutions before the matter escalates into something more serious. Communicating with God allows him to counsel us and give us wisdom. As believers, we have a unique sense of security. Unbelievers have a sense of hopelessness. God does not exempt believers from circumstances of life, but they know God will keep them from being moved off his chosen path.

The righteous man may suffer for the present but he will end his life in peace.

- Shirley Wachob (Children's Sunday School Teacher)

Day – 34

Title: **Don't be Impatient**

Text: *Put your hope in the LORD. Travel steadily along his path. He will honor you by giving you the land. You will see the wicked destroyed.*

Many disciples of the LORD have echoed the words of the prophet Habakkuk, “How long, O LORD, must I call for help? But you do not listen!” (1:2). We hear the promises of God to care for us, and to deliver us from evil. And we believe those promises. But there are times when it feels like God is not to be found. He’s not paying attention to us, or listening to our cries for help. The verse that we are looking at today challenges us in those times to not lose hope. “Don’t be impatient for the LORD to act!” The writer reassures us that God will respond to us and come to our aid. “You will see the wicked destroyed!” We must learn to **Wait on the LORD**. God’s timing may not be our timing, but His timing is perfect! Patience seems to be one of the most difficult attitudes to develop. Sometimes we hear people say, “Don’t pray for patience, because if you do, you will find yourself in a situation where you must wait.” We live in an age when everything happens so fast. We want “fast food”, “fast cars”. We want to make a right turn on red, instead of waiting for the light to turn green. Our technological advances have spoiled us. We don’t have to wait for what we want. It is hard to be patient, to wait for answers and deliverance. But that is the command of this verse today.

Instead of focusing on getting what we want when we want it, the writer challenges us to not lose our focus. The New Living translation says, “Travel steadily along His path.” Stay focused on doing what God wants. Don’t worry about how long He is taking to answer our cries for help.

Don't be impatient!

- Mark Hosler (Retired Missionary & Pastor Churches of GOD)

Day – 35

Title: **Evil gets Evicted**

Text: *I have seen wicked and ruthless people flourishing like a tree in its native soil.*

It is interesting to note David's perspectives about the wicked people. They are ruthless but flourishing well like a tree in its native soil. We have a huge backyard with slender tall trees lining up like a boundary marker but these trees cannot withstand the wind gusts. Every year during winter we see at least one tree uprooted. Literally from the root not clipping off in the midway. It looks good from far but as you examine closely you will know it has been infected.

So is the wicked they might look like they are doing great especially in the native soil (own little wicked world), however a closer examination will reveal a deep rooted menace which will eventually lead to a fall whereby the traces of it cannot be identified. On the contrast the Godly gets established not because they have a professional skill set but they have a God who leads them every step of the way.

David had enormous enemies surrounding him, he trusted God and followed the path of God. He was willing to listen to the priests and prophets of God and followed the laws of God. His many adversaries were gone since God dealt with them as he trusted God for His leading.

As a disciple of Christ we are called to live out loud – our faith in the Lord Jesus. As we shine for Jesus we might have friends turned to foe. David did not see Saul as his enemy whereas Saul saw David as his enemy. So his disposition towards David changed drastically because of his personal insecurity and lack of trust in God who appointed him to be the first king. He had a pathetic end with his armor bearer killing him. Not a happy ending.

Evil can never win over the Godly since God is with them. He is Emmanuel – God with us!

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 36

Title: **Conscious of GOD or People?**

Text: ***But when I looked again, they were gone! Though I searched for them, I could not find them!***

It is ironic to comprehend – the more we try to be God-conscious the more we get into conscious trouble. The godless seem to be happy and flourish well. David witnessed it and was grieved about it a little bit but he knew that even the thoughts of the wicked would be gone. God dealt with them.

Sometimes in life we go through similar situations like David went through. We panic but God's assurance is – we don't have to fret since God has it under His care. What makes people mad? Jealousy, insecurity, loss of power, frustration over personal inabilities and the list is endless. Do they gain anything out of these misleading attitudes? Nothing! It is maddening to know that those that suffer these problems are the ones that are doomed.

Saul's jealousy didn't deter God's work in David's life as David continued trusting God. Saul's insecurity was the result of his lack of trust on God. While he waited for the Prophet Samuel for the sacrifice and found him delayed he rushed in with the sacrifice since he became conscious of people. When Saul lost God-consciousness he lost everything. God was upset with him and regretted that He ever made him king for His people.

Saul's life is a lesson for us. What are we conscious of? I am quoting 1 Peter 2:19 for us to ponder, "*For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.*" This was David's attitude! What about us?

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)

Day – 37

Title: **Love Peace!**

Text: *Look at those who are honest and good, for a wonderful future awaits those who love peace.*

“*Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.*” (Matthew 5:9) Some people are quick-tempered and you cannot find peace with them. David held his peace in God when he had enough chances to get even with King Saul. He suffered so much doing good. Whenever the evil spirit tormented Saul David was faithful to play the harp and God delivered him. David remained honest and continued doing good despite the evil Saul inflicted on him.

God honors His people. I want to share with you the incident in Genesis 26:19-22. It happened in the life of Isaac. He was moving away from Abimelek and encamped in the valley of Gerar. Abimelek was afraid of Isaac and his people for they were too powerful for him to be deal with. Isaac’s herdsmen dug a well and found fresh water but the people of Gerar quarreled that it was theirs. It happened in two places but Isaac held his peace and kept moving. He could have dealt with the people of Gerar but he chose to remain in peace. God honored Isaac.

King Abimelek who chased Isaac came back again to sign a treaty because he witnessed the LORD was with him. Once the peace treaty was signed Abimelek left peacefully. Meanwhile his servants came up with the good news of new water resource. God established him.

Peace is an easy possibility if there is truthfulness. For those who are false peace is never an option. In all trying circumstance if we trust God and remain patiently with Him and not dealing life our way, He will certainly establish us with an unbelievable future.

- Hannah John (Registered Nurse at UPMC)

Day – 38

Title: **Consequence of Wickedness**

Text: *But the rebellious will be destroyed; they have no future.*

This verse is a sobering reminder that our actions have consequences. While God is loving and forgiving, He is also just. On the Day of Judgment, He will hold us accountable for our choices. As the saying goes, "There are consequences for our actions," and this holds true spiritually as well. Sin leads to destruction, and those who continue in wickedness will have no future.

At first glance, we may think this verse only applies to those who commit major sins like murder or theft. However, sin can be in subtle ways too, like lying, gossiping, being prideful, or greedy. Jesus taught us in Matthew 6 to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." This prayer, when prayed sincerely, can strengthen us against sin. Though we are human and prone to failure, God gives us the power to resist temptation. King Saul became rebellious when he lost God in his life. He tried to control his future by causing trouble to David.

The future of our lives is in God's hands. While we have free will, God's ultimate plan is what we should seek. The Oxford Dictionary defines wickedness as doing something evil or morally wrong. Many people justify their wrong actions by saying, "Everyone does it," or "It's just culture," or "It's what I see on TV and social media." But the Bible gives us clear instructions on righteousness. No matter how much the world tries to normalize sin, God's truth remains unchanged.

When we follow His path and strive for righteousness, we are not only avoiding destruction but positioning ourselves for blessings. Instead of justifying our actions with worldly standards, let us measure them against the Word of God. His way leads to life, peace, and a future filled with His favor. Let us seek righteousness, knowing that walking in obedience brings true fulfillment and eternal rewards.

- Tovia John (Intern Elementary Education, University of Pittsburgh)

Day – 39

Title: **The LORD Rescues**

Text: *The LORD rescues the godly; he is their fortress in times of trouble.*

Life in this world is not easy. We witness many dangers and difficulties. We are exposed to natural disasters, economic downturns, disease, wars, famine, and violence. In addition God's people are often subjected to attacks by wicked people. How are we to feel safe in such a dangerous environment? Psalm 37 is filled with encouragement and hope in spite of the dangers we face. The writer exposes the false hope that those who choose to live their lives apart from the LORD. The writer assures us that there is a Day of Judgment coming for the wicked. The wicked may flash their swords and threaten the righteous, but their power will be broken. As we come to verse 39, the writer assures us that the LORD will save the Godly. He is a fortress, a place of safety and protection in times of trouble. We must not trust in our own ingenuity or resources. Salvation comes from the LORD alone. A fortress can be attacked and even destroyed. But the shelter that God provides is solid and sure.

I must admit that sometimes this verse and the promises stated in the Psalm are difficult to hang on to. In our experience we sometimes see good people suffering or perishing. Sometimes cancer wins. Sometimes good people lose possessions, homes, even lose their lives. But we are assured that the LORD is still watching out for His people and promises us ultimate victory. So we are encouraged to trust in the LORD.

Continue to do good. Don't be fooled by the appearances that the wicked are fine and safe. Their doom is assured. Your victory is secure!

- Mark Hosler (Retired Missionary & Pastor Churches of GOD)

Day – 40

Title: **The LORD is Our Shelter**

Text: *The LORD helps them, rescuing them from the wicked. He saves them, and they find shelter in him.*

It gives a great sense of hope when we read the Psalms. I don't know how it was when David went through the torments of life. He knew the Lord would certainly rescue him however for no reason he was running for life while Saul chased to kill him. God rescued him every time when Saul targeted him.

What wrong did David do? Nothing! Does it mean that he was flawless? Certainly not! He did make mistakes nothing negligible but remarkable. But he had the heart to repent and get rid of his sinful living. One thing we know for sure he was Godly. He sought after God and trusted his life to Him. What attributed to his Godly living? How can we indoctrinate it in our lives?

David rose to his fame when he killed the giant Goliath. The underlying reason was *his zeal for God* that he didn't want an ungodly man to challenge the nation of God. He won with God on his side. He had the *fear of God* not to do anything with God's anointed man though he had Saul under his mercy three times. He had the deepest desire to bring back the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to *honor God*. He possessed the *passion to build a temple for the God of Israel*. He was even willing to *become undignified before his people to exalt his God*. He had a *quicken heart to repent* of his sinful ways and reconcile with God.

These characters that focused on God made him Godly. If we possess these virtues in our life we will surely become Godly. What we are passionate about decides whether we are Godly or Worldly. Being Godly wouldn't mean we will be trouble free. We will have trouble but we will have the Lord to rescue and restore.

The LORD is our shelter safe!

- Marcus John (Pastor at Grange Church of GOD)