

Cultivating our Appetite for God: Obeying
Psalm 37, John 4:31-34
Sermon Outline

Introduction: Some situations in life are so unfair that they make us furious.

I) What do we do when injustice makes us mad?

A) We don't get all worked up about it

Ps 37.1, 8: Fret not yourself because of evil doers... Refrain from anger. Forsake wrath.

B) We do the right thing

Ps 37.3, 27: Trust in the Lord and do good... Turn away from evil and do good.

We are not in charge of the big fix

- David and Saul
- Jesus and the kingdoms of the world

Meanings for us

II) Why do we simply do the right thing?

A) Because we trust God

Ps 37.3, 5, 7: Trust in the LORD...Commit your way to the LORD...Be still before the LORD
"Be good for goodness sake"?

To follow Jesus is to follow a friend who loves and died for you

Obedience does not save us, but...

B) One thing to trust God for

III) We have help

Psalm 37 is Jesus' song before it is ours

Ps 37.4: Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart

- Jesus' delight, his 'food'
- The desire of Jesus' heart

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Is there an injustice, either personal or on a larger front, that makes you angry? What is it and why does it make you angry?
- 2) Psalm 37 instructs us to 'do the right thing' as an antidote to becoming furious. Recall a story where you did not follow this advice. What happened?
- 3) List the verses where Psalm 37 ties trusting to God to doing the right thing. Why are faith and obedience so tightly bound in the Bible? What happens when we separate obedience from trusting God?
- 4) List the things in Psalm 37 that we should trust God for.
- 5) Obedience does not save us, but it makes our fellowship with God stronger. Why is this so? Illustrate from your experience.
- 6) Read through Psalm 37 as if it is a commentary on the life of Jesus—his attitudes, his behavior, his circumstances, and the outcomes of his life both before and after his death. Why is it helpful and important to think of this as Jesus' psalm before we think of it as our psalm? Spend time thanking Jesus for what you have discovered.