

REDLINED • Week 1: Too Much, Too Fast, Too Long

Daily Briefing • Day 2 of 5 • Enough

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Sunday we watched the needle climb as nice-to-haves became have-to-haves. Today we look at how envy keeps pushing that needle up, and the one thing Scripture offers to actually cure it. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I confess that I have looked at what other people have and wanted it more than I have wanted You. Show me where envy has been redlining my life. Help me see You clearly, and teach me to want You, not just what You give. Be my portion. I ask these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

Most people don't wake up wanting a bigger house out of nowhere. Usually somebody else got one first. The same goes for a brother-in-law's new truck, a coworker's promotion, a friend's vacation photos, the family down the street whose kid made the travel team. Envy is what turns a nice-to-have into a have-to-have, because now it is not really about the thing anymore. It is about keeping up. And keeping up is how a life ends up redlined.

Psalms 73 is titled "A Psalm of Asaph." Asaph was one of the worship leaders King David appointed to lead Israel in praise (1 Chronicles 16:4-5). You would expect a worship leader to have this envy thing figured out. But his own confession reveals that he did not: "But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked" (Psalm 73:2-3). He watched how people who ignored God seemed to have it all, and it nearly cost him his faith.

What fixed it for him? He says, "But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end" (Psalm 73:16-17). The sanctuary was where God's people gathered to worship Him. In worship, two things came into focus. Asaph saw where the prosperity of the wicked ends (Psalm 73:18-20), and he saw Who he actually had. Then he wrote the words this whole day is built on: "Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:25-26). His remedy for envy was God Himself.

A portion was a family's share of an inheritance, usually land. Asaph is saying, in effect, "They can have their share. Mine is God." That is what finally killed his envy. Not wanting less, but realizing he had more than they did. Hebrews runs on the same logic: "be content with what you have, for he has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Hebrews 13:5). Contentment is not built on owning enough. It is built on Who is with you.

Now for the honest part. If you read Asaph's words and thought, "I don't feel that," you are not alone. It is hard to love a God you cannot see more than the gifts you can hold. The apostle Peter, who spent years walking with Jesus, wrote to people who never met Him in person and told them, "Though you have not seen him, you love him" (1 Peter 1:8). So it can be done. And notice that Asaph (the worship leader from the Psalm) got there by admitting how far off he was at the start: "I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you" (Psalm 73:22). If that is where you are today, you can tell God exactly that.

Desire for God grows the way any relationship grows: time spent and attention paid. The invisible God has a face. John writes, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known" (John 1:18). You get to know the unseen Father by watching the Son in the Gospels, and you keep showing up where God's people gather, because that is where Asaph's eyes got fixed. "We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). He moved first. You get to answer.

READ & MEDITATE

Psalm 73:2-3, 16-17, 25-26

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. ³ For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. ¹⁶ But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, ¹⁷ until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end. ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Read Psalm 73:2-3, 16-17, 25-26 and notice where Asaph is standing when his thinking changes. Then read Hebrews 13:5 and notice what contentment is attached to.

REFLECT

Reminder: honest introspection and Scripture-informed self-assessment are far more beneficial than self-delusion and wishful thinking.

Envy rarely feels like envy. It usually feels like falling behind.

What have you started pursuing mainly because someone near you already has it? A vehicle, a house, a vacation, a title, a degree, your kids' activities or achievements, something else?

Who were you watching when that started?

Asaph was honest that envy nearly cost him his faith.

Honestly, where are you today with desiring God rather than His gifts? Cold, curious, distracted, frustrated, hungry, somewhere in between?

Asaph says there is nothing in heaven he wants besides God. That is an intense statement.

Piercing self-reflection time: Picture a heaven with no pain, every loved one there, and every beauty you can imagine, but God is not there. Would you be satisfied?

What does your answer tell you about what you have been wanting most?

Fill in the blank from Psalm 73:26:

"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my _____ forever." (Psalm 73:26)

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

If God is your portion, which have-to-have could you stop chasing?

It is okay to admit that it is hard to love someone you cannot see, hear, or touch. You are allowed to say that to God.

If loving God rather than His gifts feels hard right now, write it to Him plainly. What would you say?

Loving God flows from knowing God. What step will you take this week to know Him better? A few ideas: the Daily Briefings, a chapter of Mark each day, showing up Sunday on purpose, or something else. Do some prayerful strategizing before moving on.

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite Matthew 11:28-30 from memory:
