

Slide Notes for Sermon on Psalm 37
Fret not, follow courageously
Series: Studies in the Psalms

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Psa. 37:25 *I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.*

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Psa. 37:12 *The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him...*

Psa. 37:14 *The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright;*

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Psalm 37

Part 1: 1-20

Part 2: 21-40

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1. Following the Lord looks like not fretting the present

Psa. 37:1 *Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers!*

“Fret” = *charah*, “to glow warm”

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Lev. 19:15 “You shall do no **injustice** in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great...”

Lev. 19:35 “You shall do no **wrong** in judgment, in measures of length or weight or quantity.”

Is. 61:8 *For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and **wrong**...*

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Psa. 37:2 *For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.*

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Psa. 37:3 *Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and **befriend faithfulness**. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.*

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Psa. 37:7 *Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; **fret not** yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices.*

8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! **Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**

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Ps. 37:9 *For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land. 10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.*

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2. Following the Lord looks like living in light of your true future

Psa. 37:9 *For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the LORD shall inherit the land.*

Psa. 37:11 *But the meek shall inherit the land and delight themselves in abundant peace.*

Psa. 37:22 *for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off.*

Psa. 37:29 *The righteous shall inherit the land and dwell upon it forever.*

Psa. 37:34 *Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.*

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Matt. 5:5 *"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."*

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Numbers 12:3: *"Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth."*

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Psa. 37:12 *The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes his teeth at him, **13** but the Lord laughs at the wicked, for he sees that his day is coming. We can be sensitive to verses 14-15 that seem to celebrate violent justice. **Psa. 37:14** *The wicked draw the sword and bend their bows to bring down the poor and needy, to slay those whose way is upright; **15** their sword shall enter their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.**

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A. Contentment

Psa. 37:16 *Better is the little that the righteous has than the abundance of many wicked*

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B. Generosity

Psa. 37:21 *The wicked borrows but does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives; **22** for those blessed by the LORD shall inherit the land, but those cursed by him shall be cut off...*

*... **23** The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; **24** though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.*

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Psa. 37:25 *I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread. **26** He is ever lending generously, and his children become a blessing.*

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C. Witness

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.*

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