

Have the Righteous Ever Been Forsaken?

Psalm 37:25 (NASB) - I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread. .

This scripture has to be taken as it stands, in which case it is inaccurate, or it has to be understood from the Hebrew to find out what it is really saying. To quote this scripture to twist God's arm to provide everything you want, when you want it, is erroneous. We know this because some saints have gone without and even starved to death in concentration camps.

So what was David saying when he wrote it? Skip Moen explains:

"Sacks helps us clear up this apparent contradiction. It's true that the Hebrew verb is ra'a. It does mean, "to see". But its metaphorical sense extends to "regard", "perceive", "feel", "understand", "enjoy" and "learn". It is used to describe the act of the prophet receiving God's message. For our purposes, this verb also can describe the act of acceptance. And this is the aspect that Sacks elucidates. "To 'see' here means 'to stand still and watch'. The verse should thus be translated, 'I was young and now am old, but I never merely stood still and watched while the righteous was forsaken or his children begged from bread.'"

Ah, this changes things. The insight of the verse is moved from merely passive observation to active involvement. Yes, the righteous are abused, neglected, persecuted and forsaken, but not on my watch. I never just stood by and did nothing! When I saw God's people in trouble, I did something about it.

People often come to me with troubles. Health concerns, loss of job, grief in the family, loneliness, misunderstandings, despair—the righteous are forsaken and they feel it. But they shouldn't. You and I are our brothers' keepers. We are called to action. James tells us not to wait until we are asked. If you see the need, get going! Do what you can. Now! Don't let the mistranslation of this verse become an excuse for pushing the burden back on God. He put you here to take charge. He counts on you to express His compassion. There is no one else capable of doing the job He has assigned to you in the opportunities he has arranged for you. If you do not put your hand forward, then the translators will be right and the verses will be a contradiction of great magnitude. Men will read what David claims and laugh in the face of the Lord. The world will not be restored.

There are no bystanders in the Kingdom. Someone needs your help right now.

So why are you sitting?"

Laurence
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