



**When my heart was grieved  
and my spirit embittered,  
I was senseless and ignorant;  
I was a brute beast before you.**

**Psalm 73**

Yeah, this is true. It's true of me. When my nose is out of joint, everyone is my enemy. None of the things that are going wrong are because of me. It's all someone else's fault, and I often don't hesitate to let them know it. Sometimes I even revel in stating my case.

Amazingly, Psalm 73 continues in this way: "Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory." What that tells me is that even though God may tire of our behavior, God never casts us aside. This does not mean God does not reprove us. It does not mean God does not challenge us to have done with our inward focus and bloom outward. It means that after our tantrums, God looks at us and says, "Are you done? Are you ready to begin again? If you are, I'm ready to help you."

It's comforting to know that I can't dig a hole so deep that God won't climb down and say, "Wow. This is quite a hole. You think maybe it's time to climb out?" Sometimes God sits in silence with me for a while before speaking. Other times God shakes me by the shoulders immediately and shouts out, "Listen up!" I'm usually not fond of either approach, because more often than not, I just want to sit in my hole and be left alone. But I won't grow in that hole. And I'm of no use to anyone else when I'm in that hole. So God invites me out, sometimes pulls me out, and says, "Let's start over, shall we? I'll be your guide. I'll give you my counsel." Thanks be to God.

Peace,

Pastor Steve