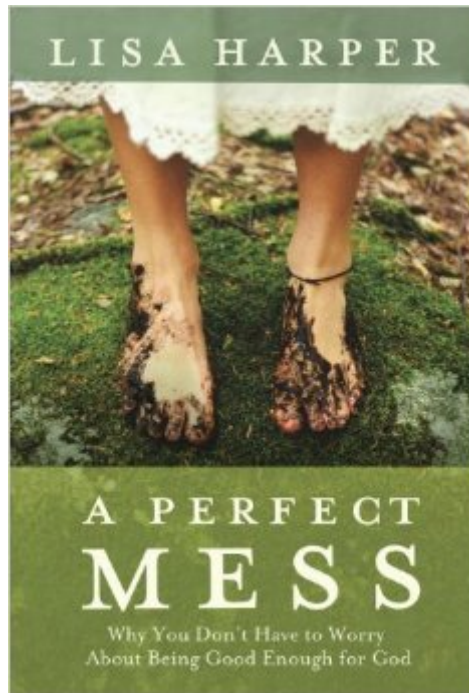


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# A Perfect Mess: Why You Don't Have To Worry About Being Good Enough For God



## Synopsis

On those days when French fries litter the floor of your minivan, when you think bad words about other drivers, when your smile hides an anxious heartâ “in those moments when you fall short of all youâ™d hoped to beâ “what does God see when He looks at you? In your less-than-lovely moments, God sees a precious daughter in need of His perfect love. In this liberating look at how God adores and transforms imperfect people, Bible teacher Lisa Harper weaves poignant stories of her own personal foibles with a fresh take on selected Psalms to reveal a loving Father who remains your greatest champion even when you donâ™t feel anywhere close to holy. Join Lisa in discovering what happens when we stop trying to hide our inadequacies and doubts and instead trust God with our anger, frustrations, flaws, and regrets. As you accept Godâ™s loving invitation to exchange your junk for His joy, youâ™ll find the imperfect pieces of your life shaped into a glorious pattern of divine grace.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Recently, I had the opportunity to read *A Perfect Mess, Why You Don't Have to Worry About Being Good Enough for God* by Lisa Harper. This is one of the few Bible study books I've read and wasn't tempted to "skim" the scripture discussions. Why? Because Lisa Harper is FUNNY. She has an irreverent way of describing things that makes her book entertaining and exciting to read. But just because she talks like an Everyday Jane, don't underestimate the weight and importance of her words. Lisa Harper is a biblical scholar to the nth degree. She just has the uncanny ability to make

her wisdom and knowledge accessible to her readers. I really needed the message of this book because I'm definitely more Martha than Mary. I feel the need to earn my salvation, and when my efforts fall short, my prayer time is spent disbelieving that God really wants anything to do with a failing worm like me. What I didn't expect is that a Bible study on certain key Psalms would help me. Why? Because I don't like the Psalms. I know, I know, everyone likes Psalms . . . except me. But I like them a lot more after Lisa Harper walked me through them! A Perfect Mess is a wonderful book. Lisa Harper is completely transparent in showing us the messiness in her life and what your own messiness means for your spiritual relationship with God. My favorite chapter was entitled "Frantic Isn't a Spiritual Fruit". In fact, I read that chapter first and then went back to the beginning of the book! Since everyone of us is A Perfect Mess, this book is a must read.

I purchased this book for my wife. She loves to study her Bible, and Lisa Harper is her very favorite Bible teacher. She flew through it and is planning to read it again. Very thankful for used books that are affordable, so that my wife can read the books that she loves.

I don't know where you are at in your walk with God, but if you are looking for a bible study that will bring you encouragement, I think this will do the trick. Lisa is authentic and open as a writer. I'm really impressed with the level of scholarship that Lisa brings to the table without appearing to be 'scholarly'. A Perfect Mess is a romp through the Psalms. It touches on our attempts to be perfect, looking for approval, emotional upheaval, anger, fear just to name a few of the topics. I don't know if I'd do this study as a group or not. The first chapter wasn't my favorite (and that usually determines whether people come back), but the more I got into this book, the better it got. This is definitely worth the read.

My ladies circle group used this book as the source for our monthly lessons. Lisa Harper wrote of her own experiences and intermingled them with stories in Psalms. There are 12 chapters in this book which we used as 12 Lessons. Each one broke-down a Psalm to understand it and relate it to our own lives. We had some concerns about not having a "teacher's lesson plan" available. It all worked out well for us. The end of each chapter has a list of questions on which to ponder. Some have other Bible verse references to consider. Our "teacher" used these questions to guide our group discussion. It worked out beautifully. We had a lot of great discussions that came from these Psalm lessons. The title of this book is perfect! Each lesson both explained and reminded us that we are human and we make messes of things but God loves us anyway much like we as parents love

our own children even when the "mess things up". We would highly recommend this book for an individual or group to read. Especially for our group, the price was right which made it more accessible to us through . I say....Give it a try.

Thank you to Lisa and Waterbrook Press for the opportunity to review this book. With the premise that God can make our mess into a message, Lisa tears apart some passages in Psalms to show us just how He accomplishes that in her book *A Perfect Mess: Why You Don't have to Worry about Being Good Enough for God*. Chapter titles include, but are not limited to: "Leaping over Legalism: What Psalm 62 says about wriggling out of the trap of wrong expectations." "Tumbling Toward Approval: How Psalm 139 describes the way God sees the beauty behind our blemishes." "When God's People Lose Their Groove: What Psalm 43 Teaches us about dealing with our less-than-lovely-emotions." "Project of a Lifetime: What Psalm 8 says about God's partnering with imperfect people like us." and my favorite, "Frantic Isn't a Spiritual Fruit: What Psalm 23 illustrates about how our Shepherd compels stubborn sheep to rest." There were times throughout the book that I felt lost. I wondered where Lisa had been and where she was coming from and I struggled to see how it all tied in together. That said, this book is probably best read a chapter at a time, rather than a sit-down-and-read-it-all-at-once book, so that the reader can stay on track with Lisa as she meanders through the different Psalms--and her accompanying (often-humorous) stories that round them out.

Lisa Harper's life, heart, work is to be enjoyed. She is funny, authentic and you can preview her style on you tube. A small group of women in Mexico are now growing in the Word of God, enjoying the fruit of Lisa's study of Malachi, the last book of the OT, followed by 400 years of silence. What a gift this book is to anyone who falsely feels that they could never be good enough to attend church and seek God with all the rest of us broken people!

Excellent reading and very thought provoking! Reading this book is like sitting and having coffee with Lisa Harper! She shares her personal stories and before you know it she has taken you from her life into the book of Psalms. I could relate to everything she shared. I was both encouraged and exhorted...and I laughed until my stomach hurt!!!

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