

This is Not What I had
Planned:
Why Do Bad Things Happen?



**“Evil is anything that we prefer
over God and who He intended us
to be.”**

Why does a good God let bad things happen to good people?

1. MisAssumption

- Three assumptions: 1) God is good and all powerful, 2) God allows bad things to happen, 3) People are good.
- People are good?
 - Job 15:14 “What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous?”
 - Proverbs 20:9 “Who can say I have made my heart pure: I am clean from sin.”

1. MisAssumption

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- People are good?
 - Romans 3:10-12-“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does GOOD, not even one.”

1. MisAssumption

- We know that since we are not GOOD or sin, there are consequences.
 - Genesis 3:16-19
 - Isaiah 59:2
 - Romans 6:23
 - James 2:10
- There is no such thing as a good person on this earth.

1. MisAssumption

- WE DON'T DESERVE LIFE.
- The unfair thing is not that tragedy happens to us or someone we know, the unfair thing is that you and I have life.
- Correct question: Why does a good God let GOOD things happen to BAD people?
- Every human who has ever lived is deserving of death because of sin.

2. But Why the Bad Things?

- The WHY in Job is because Satan was looking for someone to devour and God suggested he take a look at His servant Job.
- Job has some friends though who are sure they know the WHY
 - i. Zophar tells him *“Know then that God exacts of you less than your guilt deserves.” (11:6b)*
 - ii. Again, Zophar tells him in speaking of men in general and folly, *“The heavens*

2. But Why the Bad Things?

- Job has some friends though who are sure they know the WHY
 - i. Again, Zophar tells him in speaking of men in general and folly, *“The heavens will reveal his iniquity, and the earth will rise up against him...This is the wicked man’s portion from God the heritage decreed for him by God.”* (20:27, 29)

2. But Why the Bad Things?

- Job has some friends though who are sure they know the WHY
 - i. Eliphaz then speaks to him and says, *“Is it for your fear of him that he reproveth you and enters into judgment with you? Is not your evil abundant? There is no end to your iniquities.”* (22:4-5)
- How could they come to this conclusion?

2. But Why the Bad Things?

- God's judgement
 - Numbers 14:20-25
 - Numbers 31:1-3
 - Joshua 7-8
 - Flood, death of a child, sickness, etc.
- There are SOME things that happen today as discipline or punishment from God.
- But there is danger in assuming tragedy is a punishment.
 - John 9:1-3

2. But Why the Bad Things?

- Job's friends have theology, but the wrong application.

“the LORD said to Eliphaz...’My anger burns against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has. Now, therefore take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and offer up a burnt offering for yourselves...

(42:7-8)

Job 42:1-6

“Then Job answered the LORD and said:

² “I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.³ ‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

⁴ ‘Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you;

⁶ therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

2. But Why the Bad Things?

- We can know a lot about God, but until we walk through certain trials, we don't understand the truths of God.
- Our experiences give us clarity to understand the truths of God's Word that have laid dormant to us.
- Walking through a tragedy CAN spiritual mature us IF we learn what Job learned.
- TRUST God in the midst of it.

2. But Why the Bad Things?

- What WHY would justify your tragedy?
- If we TRUST God, we know that no purpose of His will be thwarted and that He has a plan for us and for others.
- It is God's Words that lift him up out of the dust and ashes.
- Trusting God that there is a reason for the tragedy comforted Job's heart and gave him the ability to move on EVEN when the WHY was never explained.

Application

"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His PURPOSE." (Romans 8:28)

- Two misconceptions
 - We have an idea that the good is some kind of pleasure or thing that greatly benefits us.
 - We assume that the good is going to happen while we live on this earth.
- God in His sovereignty can use evil to align us again to prefer Him over everything else and make us who He intended us to be.

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