


May 5th, 2019

Why Life Hurts

Pastor's Notes

 [BIBLE DECLARATION]

 [TITLE SLIDE]

Everyone has asked this question

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

From beginning of Time we has asked it

- Hebrews Enslaved in Egypt for over 400 years
- Early Christians were Persecuted and Martyred
- Jew are still hard-pressed to explain how a merciful God could allow six million of their brothers and sisters to be annihilated
- On September 11, 2001, we watched helplessly as two airliners slammed into the World Trade Center killing over 3,000 innocent victims

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

- What could people possibly do to deserve
Tidal Wave / Earthquake / Hurricane / Tornado

SAME QUESTION ON PERSONAL LEVEL

- Why did God allow our Baby to die? / Birth Defects? / Wheel chairs?
- Drunk Driver? / Divorce? / Addiction? / Hatred & Murder? / Evil?

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

TODAY We desire to answer question in part....

- Some answers may be easy.... Others NOT so!

BECAUSE OF EVIL & SUFFERING IN WORLD - PEOPLE HAVE WRITTEN GOD OFF

BUT... one thing is certain:



**The Existence Of Evil Does Not Eliminate God Rather,
It Cries Out For Him!**

Former atheist C.S. Lewis wrote “Mere Christianity”

*“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust.
But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless
he has some idea of a straight line.”*

- We cannot know EVIL without having idea there is GOOD
- Can have SUN w/o shadows.... but we cannot have shadows w/o SUN
- Evil cannot exist without an OBJECTIVE STANDARD OF GOOD existing
Without GOD’s moral law we would not even know what evil really is

EVIL is Evidence for GOD!! OBJECTIVE standard of GOOD

Question Remains.....

WHY WOULD A GOOD GOD ALLOW EVIL AND SUFFERING?

- Our problem is... our PERSPECTIVE on the matter is very limited
 - Limited in Space, Time, Intelligence, Insight
 - GOD sees every detail of history from beginning to end



(PHOTO: Tapestry from **BEHIND**)

- In order to achieve His purposes, GOD may HAVE to allow great deal of suffering along the way
 - Which appears pointless in our limited understanding
 - Sometimes what we experience makes no sense until we gain wider perspective and see the big picture designed by GOD



(PHOTO: Tapestry from **FRONT**)

THERE ARE 2 DIFFERENT VIEW POINTS **WORLD's / GOD's**

1. **WORLD VIEW: THE CHEIF PURPOSE OF LIFE IS HAPPINESS**

- If GOD exist, His role is to create a comfortable environment for His human pets
- They think the ultimate goal for human life is happiness...
 therefore GOD is OBLIGATED to KEEP us happy
- Exodus: Children of Israel grumbled and never entered Promised Land

2. **GOD'S VIEW: THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO KNOW GOD**

- Knowing GOD is the ultimate fulfillment of Human existence
 - **This alone brings true lasting fulfillment.... both now & eternity!**
 (FOCUS is on GOD / Other focuses on one's self)
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“Life is but a Weaving” (the Tapestry Poem by Corrie Ten Boom)

*“My life is but a weaving, Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors, He weaveth steadily.*

*Off' times He weaveth sorrow; And I, in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper, And I the underside.*

Not 'til the loom is silent, And the shuttles cease to fly

Will God unroll the canvas, And reveal the reason why.

*The dark threads are as needful, In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver, In the pattern He has planned*

*He knows, He loves, He cares; Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those, Who leave the choice to Him."*


 [1 Corinthians 13.12 NLT]

Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.

 WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

1. **GOD DESIRES REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OF US**

Humans are sinful.... We have a fallen and depraved nature

 [8 Scriptures]

Can any mortal be pure? Can anyone born of a woman be just? - Job 15.14

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. - Isaiah 64.6

Not a single person on earth is always good and never sins. - Ecclesiastes 7:20

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. - Romans 5.12

As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous— not even one. - Romans 3.10

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. - Romans 3.23

Once we, too, were foolish and disobedient. We were misled and became slaves to many lusts and pleasures. Our lives were full of evil and envy, and we hated each other. - Titus 3.3

If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. - 1 John 1.8

.....This is why there is evil in the world - **People's free will!**

GOD HAD TO ALLOW FOR EVIL TO EXIST TO HAVE A REAL RELATIONSHIP WITH US one that involves choice!

You may say: **"IT'S NOT RIGHT!! NOT FAIR"**

"I think God should stop Evil and Suffering..."

then He must stop all of it!!

- **WHAT ABOUT YOUR EVIL ??**

- If God were to intervene and prevent evil, **He would have to remove YOU!**

- An unsaved person whose worst sin is gossip is just as unsaved as a nonbeliever who is a serial killer

- We may be able to envision a world without evil but... **We Would NOT Be In It**

In essence, **God allows evil because He desires relationship with us**

- We are sinful.... With sinful people come evil things

- But praise God He has redeemed us!

.....God is faithful to redeem the evil that happens in our lives



2. **SUFFERING CAN BRING US TO GOD**

- Suffering can bring about a deeper, more intimate knowledge of GOD

Either on the part of the ONE who is suffering or THOSE around you

- The whole point of human history is **GOD drawing as many people as He can to His unending Kingdom**

- Again and again.... GOD allowed Jews to suffer in an attempt....
to bring them back too Himself

Suffering is one way GOD can draw people FREELY to himself

C.S Lewis Wrote:



“GOD whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pain. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”

- IN FACT... countries that have endured the most hardship often show the highest growth rate of Christianity



3. GOD CAN USE SUFFERING TO DO GOOD



[Romans 5.3-5a AMP]

And not only this, but [with joy] let us exult in our sufferings and rejoice in our hardships, knowing that hardship (distress, pressure, trouble) produces patient endurance; 4 and endurance, proven character (spiritual maturity); and proven character, hope and confident assurance [of eternal salvation]. 5 Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us

- In our sufferings GOD can produce something great IN US!
- OR... He may desire to save Someone through our sufferings

EXAMPLE:

- Joseph who was sold into slavery by His brothers...
- **Joseph SUFFERED greatly for it !!**

BUT LATER..... God positioned Joseph in Egypt to make provisions for:

- **The Egyptians** during the coming drought of seven years
- **His Family and Brothers** who originally sold him into slavery

Joseph said to them....



[Genesis 50.20 NLT]

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.

GREATEST EXAMPLE:

- God using evil for good.... **death of JESUS**
 - Evil people brought him to the cross...
 - **but God used that cross as the means to save the world!**
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GOD'S PURPOSE IS NOT RESTRICTED TO THIS LIFE BUT SPILLS OVER BEYOND THE GRAVE INTO ETERNAL LIFE

This world is just the beginning....

- Entryway into an unimaginable never ending life beyond death door

Paul who wrote much of the Bible, Underwent tremendous SUFFERINGS & EVIL!!!

Affliction / Hardships / Beatings / Imprisonments / Hunger

- He kept a PROPER PERSPECTIVE..... GOD'S PERSPECTIVE!



[2 Corinthians 4.16-18 NLT]

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

Paul perspective wasLife as it is on earth now, is TEMPORARY

OUR PAIN WILL NOT ENDURE FOREVER

BUT OUR LIVES WITH GOD WILL!!!

So, How should we respond to suffering?? 5

1. Fix your eyes on Jesus!!

- Stop staring at what is happening in this world
- Take your eyes off the injustice
- Not saying put on BLINDERS.... But reality is found in Jesus!



[Isaiah 6.23 NLT]

You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

2. Stop playing over and over again the trials and difficulties in your minds

- Let go of unproductive thinking about your problems
- Don't keep asking "Why God" or "When God." Remain quietly listening
- Learn to hear God's voiceask Him to reveal Himself

3. Stop talking about how hard it is

- Our tongues can reinforce the negative, so speak positive words and worship God, knowing that He is in control
- We can talk ourselves into a negative mood by rehearsing your problems
- Talk yourself into faith instead of anxiety attack
- Learn to **Declare** GOD's promises from His Word and your feelings will begin to change
- *Learn to sing in the dark!*

4. Talk to Jesus about it! Keep Praying!

- Time to draw near to God



[James 4.8a NKJV]

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

5. **Thank God!!!**

- Thank GOD for who HE is
- Thank GOD your eternity is secure!
- For Never leaving you
- For all His Promises
- For giving you Holy Spirit!!!



[1 Thessalonians 5.18 NLT]

Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

- Proclaim GOD's Greatness
- Tell of His marvelous love

You may feel like you have failed in your response of faith

- REMEMBER.... Life is a process, not an event
 - You can start now
 - It is never too late for a new beginning
 - Start believing the right things

We must remember that one day God will eradicate evil

Now He is patiently waiting so that more will turn to Him and be saved (2 Peter 3:9)

- One day, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity

One day this will be our reality....

Revelation 21.3-5a

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. 4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

5 And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!"

