

## “Is God Good When Life Isn’t?”

10-06-13

Each and every day we find ourselves in situations that cause us an abundance of pain and anxiety. We experience difficulty and struggle around us and we not only begin to wonder “*why*”, but we wonder, “*So where’s God? How could He let this happen?*”

We don’t understand because we think that as a child of God, struggles and difficulties shouldn’t assail us at all! But that’s where we missed what Jesus said. He told His disciples that discipleship was not going to be easy!

There’s a problem, and that problem is sin! Satan has been alive and active since the Garden of Eden! He finds great delight in having us question the power and love of God! He wants us to feel that God isn’t always there for us so we have to do it ourselves!

When thoughts like this come, there are a few things we need to remember. First, God isn’t sometimes sovereign! Second, God isn’t occasionally victorious! It’s not that He’s powerful once in a while, and sometimes He’s not! It’s not that He’s tired of taking care of us and needs a break! He’s always there making sure His plan for our lives is accomplished!

Listen to Jeremiah 30:24, “*The LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intentions of his mind.*” Whatever you find yourself in might confuse and bewilder you, but it doesn’t God! He can and will use whatever you find yourself in for His purpose and your good!

Open to James 1. God knows exactly what’s going on in your life! Every day you’re being tested by Him through people, pain, and problems. Think for a moment: Do you see problems and difficulties as just passing circumstances, or do you see them as earth shattering?

As Max put it, “*Every day has a pop quiz.*” You find yourself asking, “What is the purpose of this test? Why isn’t God protecting and guiding me even more?” Look at verses 3-4, “*for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*”

God hasn’t forgotten you. Just the opposite. He’s chosen you! He’s called you His own! He doesn’t want you to worry or feel deserted, He wants you to grow in your faith and your trust in Him! Every struggle you have isn’t an interruption in life but a preparation for life. Listen to these thoughts from Hebrews 12:8 & 10, “*If you are left without discipline, then you are illegitimate children. But he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.*”

The problem we run into is that we want solutions and resolutions to our problems now! We seem to have a short tolerance! But God says, “*Turn to Me and bring your concerns to Me and I will take care of them.*” But the problem is, sometimes that response from God seems to take too long! God knows our short-sighted spirit and He tells us in Psalm 146:10, “*Be still, and know that I am God.*” While you’re waiting, God’s working!

Don’t give up! Don’t lose faith! And don’t walk away from God! No matter what you might see as lack of His action, God is still in control! We know God is good, but when we face problem after problem, we start to wonder if He’s *really* good! We start to question if He’s mad at us for our sins. Considering all the problems everybody has, does He even have the time to handle our problems? We doubt His power!

When God fails to meet expectations, is He still good? Yes! We might not see the bad things that happen to us as good, but God has a plan for us that He can even take the bad things and turn them for our good! The problem is though, we have to let God define good!

Our definition of good includes health, wealth, and comfort. But God showed us that the good life sometimes contains struggles, storms, and even death! Everything's going to work out!

Is God good? Look at Jesus! He was constantly surrounded by people who were in the pit of life! They were people who felt they'd been deserted and left out to dry! But they heard Jesus, they watched Jesus, they saw Him be willing to be around them and listen to them! He touched the leper, He fed the hungry, and He even gave His life!

But Jesus wasn't just someone who did all these things then, He still does this now to you! Jesus touches your hurt! He's there and He hears your cries of hurt and pain. Jesus feels your hurt! He was hated, beaten and killed. He's right at your side guarding and healing you in His time.

Jesus uses your hurt! Sometimes that affliction you've prayed for for so long is still there and you're tired of it. Jesus wants you to know, He knows that and will give you everything you need to continue living. And when the time comes, He's prepared a place for you beyond your imagination! As Romans 8:18 reminds us, "*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*"

As Max closes the chapter, "*What's coming will make sense of what is happening now. Let God finish His work. Let the composer finish His symphony. The forecast is simple. Good days, bad days. But God is in all days. He's the Lord of the famine and the feast, and He uses both to accomplish His Will.*"

As we're going through this whole series of getting through it with God's help, maybe it's time we make this our constant guiding thought, "God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!"