

Job – part 4

It will all shake out in the end, make sense in the end, we will all agree that God was right in the end, so, if one of or all of those things isn't true—it isn't the end yet.

Overarching theme of Job: "Why do bad things happen? It's too early to tell!"

--There are many reasons why it's too early--One of the main ones is because of our mistaken notions of how things actually work.

--Sometimes good people seem cursed--Job 1:1

--Sometimes bad people seem blessed – the most important part of that is “seems” because the only one who knows everything about everything is God.

--Matthew 5:45

2. The big question that remains is: why is it this way? Why does the rain fall on the just and the unjust?

--Part of our answer is that God is gracious to bad people and blesses them even though they don't acknowledge Him.

--God is patient – we are all alive because He is! II Peter 3:9; Romans 2:4

--God is being patient and kind which us answer: “why doesn't He stop the evil?” Because if He does there is something far worse to follow.

--If God pulls out the stops and squashes sin, evil, and its consequences then He will squash those who commit sin and whose nature is evil. That would include all of us.

--Even if we lose everything as Job did we are still having a good day because there is something far worse for sinners.

So, bad people have good things happen to them, therefore, it seems logical that good people should have it good all the time, or this is the way we think.

--If I can be bad and still get good stuff, then if I'm good, well, then it ought to always be good for me, or so we think.

--It may be, like Job, that you are so good that you are better than pretty much everybody else.

--Is that a guarantee that you will always experience good things? It wasn't for Job.

--What are we missing? Good things happen to bad people because God is gracious. Why do bad things happen to good people?

--I'm going to tell you why, but before I do I need to say that you may not like what I'm about to say.

--Bad things don't happen to good people because there are no good people! There are no innocent people!! In fact, there haven't been any good/innocent people on the earth for a very long time.

--Bad things never happen to good people because there aren't any of those kinds of people.

Bad things didn't happen when there were good/innocent people

--Adam and Eve had it all good—God said it was “very good” Genesis 1:31

--Adam and Eve became bad as result of sin and gave birth to bad people! Genesis 5:1, 3; God's image = good; Adam's image = bad.

--Corroborated by the New Testament: Romans 3:10-12.

--You see, we operate from a false premise: there are good people; (but there aren't any) this False premise has led to false conclusions:

1. God must be evil to treat “good” people this way.

2. There is no God because if there were He wouldn't let bad things happen to “good” people.

Etc.

In our thinking, its unthinkable and an anomaly that bad things should happen to good people.
--In fact, it's an anomaly that good things happen at all because there are no good people!

We are confused about the wrong things (doubly confused!)

1. Bad things happen and we are confused (“but we're good people?”)
2. We should be confused when good things happen (“What? We don't deserve this; how gracious and merciful God is to allow good things to happen to bad people.”)

The book of Job is a forty-two-chapter illustration of how wrong we can be about God, ourselves and others, especially when things go bad.

You might be very wrong about the suffering of others: Job 4:7-9

--**Lk. 13:1-5.**

--Every time you've suffered—it always made sense?

--You always understood the reasons for it and what you needed to do to fix the situation?

--If we can't always figure it for ourselves, what makes us think we can figure out for others?

You might be very wrong about the blessings of others:

--A church that is suffering financially, numbers are down, influence is waning – “They must be sinning over there”

--If numbers are up, money is up, influence is up, building, growing, we assume that God likes us better???

--**Rev. 2:9-10, 3:16-17**

Every day we live off of the mercies and grace of God—our existence is dependent upon these things solely.

--Let's review our definitions of mercy and grace:

Mercy = Not getting what you do deserve Romans 6:23

--Anything this side of Hell is a good day!

Grace = Getting what you do not deserve Romans 5:7-8

--He died for God haters – you sin against Him; that's the way He takes it.

--He died for His enemies – you sin against Him; that's the way He takes it.

--If you look on someone to lust – you are an **adulterer** – “I don't think that's right” it doesn't matter!

--If you hate someone – you're are a **murderer** – that's the way He takes it!

--Don't you agree that God-hating, adulterating, murdering, enemies of God deserve to go to Hell??

Hell makes much more since than Heaven: Hell is fitting, logical and fair destination and eternal experience for those who break the Creator of the universe's Laws.

--Heaven is not fitting for them, logical and not fair destination of those who break His rules

--If they are not in Hell, isn't that pure mercy?

--If they ever have anything good, isn't that pure grace?

--If one of them who is better than most (Job) has all his worldly possessions taken from him should we be shocked, appalled or angry with God?

--Of course not, since it makes more since for it all to be taken away than for him to have any of

it in the first place!!

There may or may not be a direct relationship between my behavior and what happens to me.

--**In fact, there is mostly not** a direct relationship between what I experience and my sin.

--If there were then as soon as we sin we should be zapped!

--Things go wrong and bad for us and we shake our fist at heaven and say, "this isn't fair!!" and you know what? You're exactly right its not fair—fair is you and I burning in Hell.

--Job understood this.

--He doesn't shake His fist and blame God. Job didn't cry about the unfairness of his situation. He knew better. He knew what he really deserved.

--Job simply acknowledged God's right to do whatever He wanted even though he didn't understand why.

Because God is gracious and merciful, we have good things in our lives.

--We have health and longevity, we aren't zapped when we sin, we often are rewarded when we do well.

--Please don't make the mistake when blessings do come and we are rewarded by God to assume that we are worthy or deserving or entitled to such things!