

## Job – part 8

### Job 1:21-2:6

--So, this is what Job gets for his passing the test of losing it all??

1. Life isn't fair, because if it was, all sinners would get what they deserve.

2. As a sinner, I'm not entitled to anything but Hell, so every day I wake up not in Hell is a good day.

3. I have no business complaining about the bad things, but I should be very grateful for the good things.

4. God doesn't owe me anything, not even an explanation.

5. God's got a right to do whatever He wants –

--God gives and He takes away—it's His stuff and He's got a right to do with it whatever He wants.

6. Whenever and whatever God takes from is just something that was going to be taken away eventually.

7. When we do good, God doesn't owe us good stuff in return.

--"But I've been good, Lord!" -- "SO?" Lk. 17:10

8. When bad stuff happens, it may not have anything to do with my behavior.

--What God does with Job in no way reflects His opinion of Job—Job was His favorite!

That there may be a disconnect between our behavior and our experiences has numerous examples elsewhere in Scripture in addition to the Book of Job.

--In John 9 there's a story that's very closely related to the Job's story.

--John 9:1-3 – Jesus' disciples were televangelists!! "bad things only happen to people who are doing bad, but if you do right you'll be healthy and wealthy"

--This is common, rudimentary human thinking.

--There was another purpose for this man's blindness just like there can be another purpose for our own suffering.

### Why Do Bad Things Happen to God's People?

--Never forget that there aren't any good people, intrinsically good, that is. But there are those who have been declared good by a gracious act of God. **These the Bible calls saints/God's people.**

There are several reasons for bad things to happen to God's people:

1. So that God can be glorified – "Hallowed be Thy Name" "make your name famous God"; "Glorify your name through my life"—He taught us to pray that way, so, we shouldn't be surprised when He uses us to accomplish that.

--You pray that way, but do you mean it?

--The number one reason why bad things happen to God's saints is for the same reason that trouble came into the life of the blind man.

--The story of this blind man has been written down for posterity in the inspired Word of God which will not pass away and here we are benefitting from it!

--Trouble was allowed in his life for the purposes of God--that God might be displayed or glorified in and through his life.

In a larger sense, you could say that that is true for every trouble you and I have as saints.

--Why are there troubles? Why are there problems? Why are there issues? So that God might be displayed in our lives.

--He could stop them, but when He doesn't it is because these are opportunities for God to be glorified in and through us.

--You may not like that conclusion, but you need to learn to like it, and, I can assure you, a day is coming that you will like it forever.

Speaking of forever, let's think a little harder about this blind man for a moment.

--He's in Heaven now, in eternal bliss, right? Do you think he's still mad at God for his disability?

--He probably wasn't very happy with God at some point in his earthly life because of his blindness, but do you think he still feels that way?

--How long was he mad? How long has he been glad?

--Do you think he's up there saying, "I know I'm in Heaven and everything, but I just haven't gotten over the fact that You let me be blind for 30 years of my life"?

--Do you think it still matters to him in the same way now? Of course not! While on earth, he probably had the question "Why me, God?" – as any of us would.

--Is he still asking that question?

**Disturbing conclusion:** He was going to lose his eyesight anyway...going to lose his life anyway

--You and I have short lives – 100% of us are going lose 100% of what we currently have just as this man did.

--This man is now dead, and when he died, he lost everything he had on earth; he has now been dead for a very long time.

--God took this man's temporary situation on earth and used it for an eternal weight of glory.

--This man's story is repeated for all posterity through the inspired text of Scripture. **Is that such a bad thing?**

--This man lost his eyesight, what he was going lose it either way someday, but got glory for God for eternity through that comparatively short season of his life.

--**Not a bad trade off.**

**That God can be glorified is always part of why bad things happen.**

--So, instead of primarily thinking, "God make it stop" let's learn to think, "God how can I bring glory to You in this?"

**2. For our own good -- the second reason why bad things happen to God's people**

**-- II Cor. 12:7-10 --**

--There may be no relationship between what you've done and what you're currently experiencing, but God may have allowed it **because you need it.**

--You need it to be a better person. You need it to be a better Christian, to be a better servant of His – that is a top priority for Him.

--We say that it's what we want but we want it at minimum cost.

Apostle Paul's situation: Talk about a solid guy, a wonderful theologian, and definitely not like those friends of Job or the televangelists in any way.

--Paul tells us in [II Corinthians 12](#) that he was special due in part to the surpassing greatness of God's revelations to him.

--But with that privilege came the responsibility of remaining humble (special and humble rarely are found in the same person).

--God's solution for Paul's humility was that He allowed trouble into Paul's life to insure he didn't exalt himself.

--**Mark it carefully:** the trouble wasn't because Paul had done anything wrong.

--The trouble was allowed to keep Paul from *ever doing wrong*.

--This is so important to see and understand as we try to figure out the "whys" of troubles and trials.

--This trouble in Paul's life was preventative not punitive!

--Wow. God allows stuff like that? Yep.

--In fact, it was a messenger of Satan himself who was allowed to deliver this message of trouble into the life of Paul just like Satan was allowed to afflict Job.

--"[God will not let Satan touch a believer!](#)"? Where are you getting your theology?

What would you choose? Would you rather be able to say, "[I want to be happy and feel warm and good every day of my short life](#)"?

--Or would you prefer to feel happy and warm and good for the rest of eternity because you used your short life to glorify God?

--We only have one life and one shot at glorifying God in this world.

--Would you rather miss your shot just so that you can be comfortable for your short life and waste an opportunity at eternal glory?

--God did not take us straight to Heaven the moment we trusted Jesus as our Savior, but has left us here for the purpose of being a display for His glory.

--That purpose is to show the world who God is through us. We've only got one life to live—one life to give.

--We're going to lose it all anyway, our lives and every part of it – our sight, hearing, hands, feet, health, wealth, abilities, family, friends— all of it will be gone eventually.

--Why not take this small window of opportunity called our life and let God be glorified in it?

--Think with me; through the comings and goings of any of these things that we **will eventually lose**, we can gain glory for God.

--Someday, when we sit in Heaven, we will be able to say with the man born blind, "[Man, I'm so glad You did that God!](#)"

--I can guarantee you that the man born blind is not bothered at all by that fact so that he could glorify God for an eternity.

--Do you think Job is mad at God right now for how all this shook out??