

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

JOB 1:1-2:10

INTRO: Recently we all heard on the news about a fellow who was mauled by a bear while hunting. In that story, the fellow, whose nick name was Skinny, was about 15 feet high in a tree when a bear cub climbed up to him. Upon shewing the cub away, the mother bear climbed the tree, knocked Skinny out of the tree and literally tore him apart. That is a sorrowful thing to consider. But there is also a story behind the story. It is a story of how **BAD THINGS SEEM TO BE HAPPENING TO A GOOD FAMILY**. Skinny's girlfriend, Danielle, comes from a family that has really had its share of trouble. When she was 6 years old, her father died of a massive heart attack at the young age of 39. Her mother then began to date another fellow, who after about 3 years committed suicide. Then, Danielle met Skinny and as they are now talking about marriage, he is practically killed by a bear. All of this has caused members of the family to ask the question: **WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?** Such a question has been asked by many down through the years, ever since the time of the Old Testament Character of Job. **Why do terrible things take place in the lives of seemingly innocent people?** The Bible does give us some insight on this question which is what we want to study today.

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READ THE TEXT: JOB 1:1-2:10

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OBSERVATION: We may not always know the exact reason why BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE. For those of us who would be encouragers in cases like that, we need to be extremely careful as to what we say because we could end up giving bad advice, as was the case the Jobs friends in the Old Testament. They thought they were doing Job a favor when in reality, they were only causing him more grief. Certainly **GOD KNOWS SPECIFICALLY WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE AND THEREFORE IN THE MIDST OF THOSE TIMES, WE MUST JUST TRUST IN GOD TO DO THE RIGHT THING....AND HE WILL! (ROMANS 8:28)**. In light of that, the Bible gives us some practical principles to apply when these questionable times come our way.

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I. WHY DO BAD EXPERIENCES HAPPEN?

SOME BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER.

- A. To Conform us to the Image of Christ – Romans 8:28-30
- B. To Reveal to us the Grace of God – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- C. To Enable us to Witness for Christ – 2 Corinthians 1:5-10
- D. To Draw us Closer to God – Job 42:5
- E. To Build us In our Faith – James 1:2-4
- F. To Show us the Mercy of God – Psalm 138:7,8
- G. To Prove a Point to Satan – Job 2:1-7

ILLUSTRATION:

II. HOW CAN BAD EXPERIENCES BE FACED?

GOD WILL ALWAYS MAKE A WAY

A. Turn to God

- 1. Call upon God – Seek His strength early.
- 2. Yield to God – Let Him do His work in you without rebellion.
- 3. Trust in God – To do the right thing in a bad situation.

B. Turn to Others

-There will always be others around you who will pray with you and let you pour your heart out to them. Turning to them in bad times will:

- a. Provide personal strength for you
- b. Allow you to let out your emotions
- c. Offer you godly advice
- d. Build good relationships

ILLUSTRATION:

III. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF BAD EXPERIENCES?

THERE ARE ALWAYS VALUABLE LESSONS TO LEARN

A. A Greater Appreciation of God

B. A Greater Appreciation of Others

- 1. For the help they have given
- 2. For the bad circumstances they may face

C. A Greater Appreciation of Life

- 1. Relative to Spiritual Growth
- 2. Relative to Physical Blessings

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. HOW CAN WE PREPARE FOR BAD EXPERIENCES?

BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR TROUBLE BEFORE IT COMES

A. Develop the Proper Attitude

-Remember that Bad Experiences are a Normal part of Life

B. Develop the Proper Action

-Remember God Before the Bad Experiences Appear

Ecclesiastes 12:1

- 1. Begin a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ
- 2. Maintain a relationship with Him through Bible reading and prayer
- 3. Depend upon Him for EVERY Circumstance in Life

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON: GOD WILL NEVER LET YOU ALONE! HE IS THERE ALL OF THE TIME TO SEE YOU THROUGH EVEN THE WORST OF THE BAD EXPERIENCES. NOTE ISAIAH 43:1,2