

Monday - April 1

Dear Friends, Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to the world.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Lately, I have been wondering why do bad things happen to good people? Why do people get cancer? Why is there so much sadness, hunger and ignorance in our world. So when our group that is reading through the Bible with Pastor Katya got to the book of Job, I thought now I am going to get some Bible answers. If only life were that simple...

Job was a righteous man according to God. The accuser said to God that Job is righteous, because nothing bad has ever happened to him. If Job had any adversity he would not believe. So God agrees to allow Job to be tested but he may not be killed. Does God really test us with suffering or do some of our own choices cause some of our difficulties?

Job's animals are killed, his children die and then he ends up with boils on his body. But, Job stated I am a good person I have not sinned, he still praised God but questioned why bad things should only happen to evil people. His friends tell him, Job you must have sinned for all these bad things happen to you. The reality is we are human so we all sin.

Then God says to Job in chapter 40 "Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are God's critic, but do you have any of the answers?" God goes on to explain to Job all the details of how God created the world and that life is very complicated. Does Job want to be the judge of the world and decide who is righteous and who is not and hand down the judgement for each sin?? In my mind, God is saying you are only seeing a small part of God's wonderful universe how could you understand. God is in control not you. The world is full of God's amazing intricate creations.

Maybe we aren't going to understand the suffering that is happening but we have to accept it. Not that we just do nothing. We pray and try to make injustices better and help people. In the end, Job repents and says, "You asked who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?" It is I and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. Job prays and God's grace restores to Job twice as what he had before.

God sent us his son, Jesus to take on our suffering. So when our time on earth is done we can go to heaven to be with God and hopefully get some of our questions answered.

Karen

Prayer: Dear God, help us pray when life is difficult. Assist us to bring comfort to those in need. Thank you for your grace and the incredible world in which we live. Praise Jesus for his suffering will lead us to heaven, where there is no suffering and all our loved ones share in eternal life. Amen.