

“Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?”

Introduction:

I. Job: An Illustration

One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the LORD, “From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it.” Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him. He is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.” “Does Job fear God for nothing?” Satan replied. “Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. “But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.”“The LORD said to Satan, “very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.” Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD. Job 1:6-12 (NIV)

Message Purpose: To show us that _____ is universal and that God allows painful things to take place in our lives in order to _____ us to Jesus, and bring us closer to Him.

Two Truths about Life:

- Suffering is a universal fact of life
- Everyone in this room has either just emerged from a time of suffering, or is _____ in a time of suffering or will _____ enter a time of suffering.

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. Job 1:1 (NIV)

II. Possible Reactions: Job’s Wife & Job

“...Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Job 2:9-10 (NASB)

- **Job’s Wife** (we are “good” people, we don’t deserve this!)
- Most suffering occurs because we are tainted _____ living in a tainted _____.

After the “original” sin creation was no longer perfect:
Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse. Romans 8:20 (NLT)

When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. Romans 5:12 (NLT)

Note: The question, “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People” is based on a faulty assumption.

III. Your Response (do you still say you’re a “good” person?)

The Ten Commandments:

As it is written, “THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE.” Romans 3:12 (NASB)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 (NASB)

BAD NEWS:

GOOD NEWS:

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

ILLUS: Parachute

Closing: