

Jesus Calms the Storm

Making sense of the storm:

1. God is perfectly **loving**.
2. God can do **whatever** he wants.
3. There is **evil** in the world.

Logical problem:

It's logically inconsistent for a God to allow **evil**.

Response:

1. We can't think of a **good reason** for evil.
2. God could have reasons we don't **understand**.
3. He is limited by **logic** and his **character** in what he can do.

Emotional problem:

I refuse to believe in a God who would allow **evil**.

Response:

Taking it home:

Romans 8:18-21, John 17:1-5, Psalm 90:2, Philippians 3:8-10, Isaiah 53

1. We are in a state of **rebellion**.
2. The **purpose** of life is...
3. God's view stretches beyond this life and into **eternity**.
4. Knowledge of God is an **incommensurable** good.
5. **Suffering** can't mean God is absent.

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of April 7, 2019

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1 The following list has some of the greatest movie series of all time. What would be your top three? *The Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars*, *The Godfather*, *The Fast and the Furious*, *Harry Potter*, *Bourne*, *Mission Impossible*, *Toy Story*, *Indiana Jones*, or other.

2 Simply put, empathy is our attempt to put ourselves in “someone else’s shoes.” How might empathy help us care for someone who is going through a trial or hardship that doesn’t seem like a big deal to us?

Can you think of any trials you’ve gone through that helped you have compassion for people going through similar trials?

3 When someone is going through a tough time, it can be tempting to quote a Bible verse as an encouragement to them. But this could sound patronizing or cliché to a person going through a hard time. What would be some of your considerations before quoting a Bible verse to someone going through a rough patch?

4 Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1 David is known for many things in the Bible; a great king, but also someone who faced his fair share of trials. In one trial, David was pursued by King Saul even though he was serving Saul and God by fighting the Philistine army. After you read through the story in 1 Samuel 24 and hear David’s response in Psalm 142, answer the following questions:

1 Samuel 24 – **New International Version (NIV)** - After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, “David is in the Desert of En Gedi.”² So Saul took three thousand able young men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men near the Crag of the Wild Goats.³ He came to the sheep pens along the way; a cave was there, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in the cave.⁴ The men said, “This is the day the LORD spoke of when he said^[b] to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’” Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.⁵ Afterward, David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe.⁶ He said to his men, “The LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD’s anointed, or lay my hand on him; for he is the anointed of the LORD.”⁷ With these words David sharply rebuked his men and did not allow them to attack Saul. And Saul left the cave and went his way.⁸ Then David went out of the cave and called out to Saul, “My lord the king!” When Saul looked behind him, David bowed down and prostrated himself with his face to the ground.⁹ He said to Saul, “Why do you listen when men say, ‘David is bent on harming you’?”¹⁰ This day you have seen with your own eyes how the LORD delivered you into my hands in the cave. Some urged me to kill you, but I spared you; I said, ‘I will not lay my hand on my lord, because he is the LORD’s anointed.’¹¹ See, my father, look at this piece of your robe in my hand! I cut off the corner of your robe but did not kill you. See that there is nothing in my hand to indicate that I am guilty of wrongdoing or rebellion. I have not wronged you, but you are hunting me down to take my life.¹² May the LORD judge between you and me. And may the LORD avenge the wrongs you have done to me, but my hand will not touch you.¹³ As the old saying goes, ‘From evildoers come evil deeds,’ so my hand will not touch you.¹⁴ “Against whom has the king of

Israel come out? Who are you pursuing? A dead dog? A flea? ¹⁵ May the LORD be our judge and decide between us. May he consider my cause and uphold it; may he vindicate me by delivering me from your hand.”¹⁶ When David finished saying this, Saul asked, “Is that your voice, David my son?” And he wept aloud. ¹⁷ “You are more righteous than I,” he said. “You have treated me well, but I have treated you badly. ¹⁸ You have just now told me about the good you did to me; the LORD delivered me into your hands, but you did not kill me. ¹⁹ When a man finds his enemy, does he let him get away unharmed? May the LORD reward you well for the way you treated me today. ²⁰ I know that you will surely be king and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hands. ²¹ Now swear to me by the LORD that you will not kill off my descendants or wipe out my name from my father’s family.” ²² So David gave his oath to Saul. Then Saul returned home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Psalm 142 – New International Version (NIV) - I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy. ² I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble. ³ When my spirit grows faint within me, it is you who watch over my way. In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me. ⁴ Look and see, there is no one at my right hand; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for my life. ⁵ I cry to you, LORD; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” ⁶ Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need; rescue me from those who pursue me, for they are too strong for me. ⁷ Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name. Then the righteous will gather about me because of your goodness to me.

David’s trial was:

David’s feeling about the trial:

David’s response to God:

What did David do to overcome the trial?

How did God work through David’s trial?

Cross out the name David and write in your own name in the questions above as you answer the same questions about a trial you’ve gone through. What are some of the valuable lessons you learned through your trial(s)?

2

As Christopher reminded us this weekend, suffering was something the disciples experienced and something we’ll also experience as followers of Jesus. This means a shift in our perspective from hoping suffering doesn’t happen, to being ready for when it does. As you read through the following verses, how could they prepare us to face any suffering, trials or hardship that may come our way?

Romans 5:1-5 - New International Version (NIV) - Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we^[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Hebrews 10:24-25 - New International Version (NIV) - And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

2 Timothy 3:12-15 - **New International Version (NIV)** - In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 - **New International Version (NIV)** - Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Which of the verses is most challenging to you and why?

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back on this week's sermon and study, are there any trials or roadblocks where you may need to change your perspective?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

Prayer is an important part of being in a Life Group. Over the years we've found that group prayer goes better when we follow three simple guidelines.

NEVER MAKE ANYONE PRAY

While we'd love to see everyone in group praying, we also understand not everyone feels comfortable praying out loud. No one is required to pray.

KEEP PRAYERS SHORT AND SIMPLE

Group prayer goes better when members keep their prayers short and to the point. When someone prays for a long time, it's hard for the other members to stay focused. Long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group.

DO WHAT WORKS BEST FOR THE GROUP

This could mean breaking up in guy/girl time, praying together as a whole group, praying in twos, having multiple people praying for one person, praying to the person to the left, etc.



COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org