

When The Right Thing Brings The Wrong Results

Setting The Context: *The Prequel And The Sequel*

The Text And Story: *A Good Deed Gone Bad* Acts 21:27-40

When The Right Thing Brings The Wrong Results Here's How To Respond:

(1) Do not be _____.
1 Peter 4:12-19/ John 16:33

(2) Don't assume every _____ means a _____.
Exodus 14:1-31/ Psalm 23:3-4/ 2 Timothy 2:22 & James 1:13-15/ James 4:7 & 1 Peter 5:8-10

- If you can get out of a valley without _____ or _____, get out.
- If you can't, stay the _____.

(3) When everything goes wrong, don't _____.
Job 1:20-22/ Isaiah 5:20/ Romans 8:28/ 2 Peter 3:9

(4) Instead of asking, " _____?" try asking, " _____?"
1 Corinthians 10:13

- What does God want me to do _____?
- There is _____ a path of obedience.

(5) If you're being persecuted, make sure it's for being a _____, not for being an _____.
1 Peter 4:14-17

(6) If the right thing brings the wrong results - _____.
1 Peter 4:19/ Proverbs 9:10/ 2 Corinthians 10:2-4

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Setting The Context: *The Prequel And The Sequel*

The Text And Story: *A Good Deed Gone Bad* Acts 21:27-40

When The Right Thing Brings The Wrong Results Here's How To Respond:

(1) Do not be **SURPRISED**.

1 Peter 4:12-19/ John 16:33

(2) Don't assume every **VALLEY** means a **WRONG TURN**.

Exodus 14:1-31/ Psalm 23:3-4/ 2 Timothy 2:22 & James 1:13-15/ James 4:7 & 1 Peter 5:8-10

- If you can get out of a valley without **DISOBEYING GOD** or **HURTING OTHERS**, get out.
- If you can't, stay the **COURSE**.

(3) When everything goes wrong, don't **BLAME GOD**.

Job 1:20-22/ Isaiah 5:20/ Romans 8:28/ 2 Peter 3:9

(4) Instead of asking, "**WHY?**" try asking, "**WHAT?**"

1 Corinthians 10:13

- What does God want me to do **NOW?**
- There is **ALWAYS** a path of obedience.

(5) If you're being persecuted, make sure it's for being a **CHRISTIAN**, not for being an **IDIOT**.

1 Peter 4:14-17

(6) If the right thing brings the wrong results - **KEEP DOING THE RIGHT THING**.

1 Peter 4:19/ Proverbs 9:10/ 2 Corinthians 10:2-4

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of January 24, 2021

(Questions and Scriptures for further study & discussion)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What are your top three favorite emojis? (Hint: look at your text messages on your phone for the most frequently used.)
2. If you could turn the time ahead to when there are zero COVID restrictions, what would be the first thing you do? (i.e. travel, throw a party, see family, eat inside at a restaurant, delete your Zoom account 😊)
3. 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. One of the ways to respond when the right thing brings the wrong result is to not assume every valley means a wrong turn. One bit of truth that can help us understand this principle is to know the difference between a trial and a temptation. James, the brother of Jesus, gives us some incredible wisdom and insight when it comes to trials. As you read, underline anything that catches your attention, and put a question mark next to anything that might be unclear.

James 1:2-8, 12-15 New International Version (NIV)

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸ Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

¹² Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. ¹³ When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; ¹⁴ but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. ¹⁵ Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Although none of us ask for the "wrong" result, God often is able to use trials to mature us. Have you ever thought of trials through this lens? How might viewing them this way help us to respond to our next trial?

In James 1:13-15, we read that going through trials can cause a person to face temptation. Think about a trial that you or someone you know has walked through. What were some of the temptations faced during the trial? (i.e. question God with "why," distrust of God's goodness, unhealthy coping with pain, bitterness, anger, hatred)

Why do you think so many temptations seem to pop up when we are experiencing a trial?

What advice/encouragement/truth would you share with someone walking through a trial to avoid falling prey to temptation?

2. This week in the sermon, we learned how to respond when the right thing brings the wrong results. In the life of Jesus, there was a family Jesus loved dearly— Mary, Martha and Lazarus. Even though they did the “right” thing, Lazarus still died. Read the story below and make note of anything that stands out.

John 11:32-44 New International Version (NIV)

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

In the story above, Jesus had a visible response to the situation. What might we be able to learn from Jesus’ response that we can apply when we have an opportunity to respond to others?

Can you think of a time when someone’s tough season had a positive influence on your relationship with Jesus?

In the passage above, Jesus waited four days after Lazarus’ death to raise him from the dead. Take a moment to ponder what Mary and Martha must have felt in those four days. Have you ever felt like God wasn’t working on your timetable?

TAKING IT HOME

Which one of the six responses from Larry’s sermon might be an area you would most like to grow in?

PRAYER REQUESTS



TIPS ON GROUP PRAYER

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

WE PRAY FOR ONE TOPIC AT A TIME - Anyone in the group is free to introduce a prayer request either before prayer begins or during the prayer time. Once a topic is introduced, the group focuses on that request alone. Once it's covered, the group moves on to the next topic.

PRAY MORE THAN ONCE - Because the group is focusing on one topic at a time, each person is encouraged to pray several times during the prayer time for those topics they feel most led to pray about. No one is required to pray.

WE KEEP OUR 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 and long prayers tend to intimidate those who are just learning to pray out loud in a group. No one is required to pray out loud.

NORTH COAST CLASSES & RESOURCES

[FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY](#)

Begins January 25

[PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE](#)

Begins February 8

[FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY](#)

Resources for parents



COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

COVID-safe community service projects are available for your group to serve. To see what our high need projects are, check out NorthCoastCommunityService.org