

"God in the midst of tragedy"

The Message

What should we think about God when tragedies occur?

Tragedies / Bad things happen

- in relationships / family
- health / death
- Work / School / \$

We don't know what to think

- We know that God could have stopped it
- is difficult not to complain
- seems that the tragedy does not make sense

This will be for you if:

- You've been through tragedy / difficulty; you know how hard it is to know what to think about God in these moments
- you are going through a difficulty right now, it's hard for you to hold on to your faith
- You will go through difficulty, take notes

What should we think about God when tragedies happen

It's hard to know what to think about God because:

We feel that God is far away when we are in the middle of it

Psalms 22:1-2

Big Idea: Tragedies and difficulties push you to *God* or *away from God*

Often, by going through a tragedy, we end up much farther from God

Job 2:9

Not sure if he is there

Even if he exists, I want nothing to do with a God like that

we can come to know God
in a much more profound and unique way
for having gone through tragedies

Job 42:1-2, 5-6

We can get closer to God as we go through difficulties

Not because everything gets resolved (and we "see his hand"), but in the middle of the mess

Big Idea, we get to know God as never before by going through tragedies

We learn how to know God better in the tragedies by looking at Job's story

1-Rich Man

Job 1:1-3

2 - lost all his possessions, children, health,

Job 1:6-19, 2:1-8

3 - His wife responds by saying "blame God, and let him kill you; abandon God"

Job 2:9

4 - His friends come to comfort

Job 2:11-13

5 - The with his friends he starts to ask "why?"

- In the process they assign motives to God
- We do the same
- What are some of the reasons and motives which we assign to God when bad things happen?

6 - God comes

- describes his power and sovereignty, says: Who are you to question why I do what I do, I am God? Job 38:1-18 (and continues for 4 chapters)

Big Idea: Tragedies and difficulties push you to *God* or *away from God*

Job's wife was driven away from God

Job 2:9

Job came know truly know him, much better than before
Job 42:1-2, 5-6

Application: How should we respond to God in suffering:

How to respond to God in suffering in order to be closer to him for having gone through the experience:

1 - Accept what he sends

Job 2:10

In the midst of tears, to say "You are God, I will accept this"

2 - Do not stop believing he is God, he rules, he is King

Job 1:20-22

Do not lose faith in bad times

"Where is God?"

God reigns supreme, even over Satan and nature (Satan had to ask his permission and play inside his boundaries, God gives Job what God wants at the end of the story)

Job 1:12,

Job 2:6-7

Job 42:10

Psalms 115:3

There is power in this reality that can serve as a foundation and as comfort

3 - Seek after God

...instead of only looking for a way out

we get to know God as never before by going through tragedy, if we actively, desperately seek him in the midst of the tragedy (read, pray, fast, make your decision to follow him, be in community with other Christians)

Seek him desperately

It's what Job did

Next Step

Going through something difficult right now:

- Maybe you need to come to a place of being able to accept it
- Maybe you need to re-affirm your faith in who God is
- Maybe you need to actively seek after God (decide to follow him, read the Bible, fasting, praying)

Prepare to go through something difficult tomorrow :

- Decide to follow God (repent, be baptized)
- Put the spiritual disciplines into your routine, life, and soul (prayer, Bible, fasting)

Why do it: You can know him like never before

this could become true for you

Job 42:1-5

Communion

we remember how God came near to us on the cross. Our suffering will never compare to the suffering that he endured so you could be near to him.