

EVIDENCE

Part 4: Why Would God Allow Bad Things to Happen?

WEEK OF OCTOBER 31, 2021

Many of us wonder why a good God would allow bad things to happen. In bringing back Lazareth from the dead, Jesus demonstrated how God can exist in the midst of a world of evil and suffering.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Why would a good God allow bad things to happen?
 - A good God can coexist with evil in the world.
 - “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” | John 10:24
 - Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father’s name testify about me.” | John 10:25
 - Willful blindness--when there’s something to discover, but you won’t take the time to look.
 - The story of Jesus and Lazareth (John 11:1-48)
 - So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days... | John 11:5-6
 - “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died.
 - But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” | John 11:21-22
 - Do you ever look around your life and feel like Jesus is not in a hurry?
 - Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” | John 11:25-26
 - Jesus wept. | John 11:35
 - Jesus enters our story and feels our pain, even though he knows how the story ends.
 - Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 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.” | John 11:41-42
 - For those who were there, it was seeing that led to believing that led to them placing their trust in Jesus.
 - 2,000 years later, a third of the world’s population believes that Jesus was the son of God because of what people saw him do.
 - The apostle John would say, “I’m nobody special. I was just there. I saw it. I believed. And I found life in his name.”
-

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you have a personal example of how something tragic or challenging helped strengthen your faith? If so, explain.
2. To you, what’s the significance of what we see in John 11:35? (“Jesus wept.”)
3. What are some of the things in your life you wish Jesus would hurry up and fix, or solve, or take care of?
4. In this story, we see Martha be both brutally honest (“...if you had been here, my brother would not have died”) and still place her trust in God. Are you able to balance your disappointment, doubts, and questions with your faith and hope in God? What helps you (or doesn’t help you) do that in a healthy way?