



Pastor Shawn

A Life with Grief & Suffering

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The struggle with grief and suffering

Is God Sovereign?
Doesn't God care?
If God is loving then, why?
Why is God silent / inactive?

The Book of Job: Why God?

Can He or wouldn't He do something?
Is he ambivalent or unloving or worse?
Is grief and suffering punishment?
Does prayer work or why isn't it?

8 Lessons from the book of Job – Why do you serve God?

1. Our relationship with God is tested by grief & suffering Job 1:8-12; Job 2:7-10
2. Right living doesn't protect you from grief & suffering Job 1:21, John 9:3,16:33
3. You can still worship God amid pain Job 1:21, 2:10,
4. People have a hard time when others experience grief & suffering Job 3-31
5. God can handle our expressions of grief, hurt, and anger Job 1:22, 2:10, 42:7
6. God's actions / inactions are not always understandable Job 36:26, Isaiah 55:8
7. God doesn't need to answer all our "Why God" questions Job 38:2, Job 40:2

8. We can experience unjust suffering, and God can still be good

"Will you discredit my justice and condemn me just to prove you are right?" Job 40:8

Big Mistake Theme: Don't assume the cause /reason of someone's suffering

"As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus" John 9:1-3

"I am angry... for you have not spoken accurately about me, as my servant Job has." Job 42:7

Our Responsibility to those who are grieving & suffering.

1. Be Present and Available

"Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn."

Romans 12:15

"Praise be to the God... who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

2. Provide Support & Encouragement without minimizing the pain

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

"The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

Psalms 34:18

3. Offer Practical Help

4. Pray for and pray with them

"Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray."

James 5:13

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

5. Check in Regularly