

No Dark Clouds - Personal Application Lesson

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PA#4

When Really Bad Things Happen

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“Who am I? Why am I not normal like the kids you teach? They have a home, a family, and no scars.”

Before answering, Mishea silently moves one of her hands back and forth in the water of the pool. Finally, she looks up and addresses the boy. “First of all, you need to be honest with yourself. You are not the son of Leonidas. Do you remember anything about your real parents?”

Wiping away the tears from his face, the boy responds, “I was told that I was sold as a slave and that my parents were slaves. All I really know is that I was raised with beggars and crippled kids. I escaped one night from the caretakers and I have been on my own now for a long time. My only real friends are Aditya, Scooter, and Baa-Foo.”

“Second of all,” Mishea continues, “you must confront the fact that what has already happened cannot be changed. You can only change the present and the future.”

“But why did this happen to me?” the boy asks sincerely. “Does God hate me? Is He punishing me?”

“I believe that the Hebrew God is the true and Almighty One God. You cannot see Him, but He can see you. You may feel that no one loves you or cares about you in this world – but He loves you and knows who you are. We may not understand why things happen the way they do, but He is the all-knowing God.”

Beggar Boy and Mishea, No Dark Clouds, Chapter 10

When Beggar Boy asks, “*Why did this happen to me? Does God hate me?*”, what do you think he is really afraid of losing—his identity, his worth, or his hope?

Mishea tells him, “*You can only change the present and the future.*” How does that challenge the way you think about your own painful experiences—especially the ones you wish you could erase or rewrite?

Life can change in an instant. A tornado can destroy a neighborhood. A doctor can speak the word *cancer*. A loved one can die without warning. A car accident, a financial collapse, or a sudden tragedy can shake a person to the core. When these things happen, it is natural for people to ask hard questions. Some may even say, “Why would God let this happen?” or “Is God to blame for this?”

These questions come from real pain, and they deserve honest, compassionate answers.

According to 2 Thessalonians 2:7, iniquity—evil, sin, tragedy, and lawlessness—is described as a mystery. This means we will never fully understand every reason behind the suffering we see in the world. But Scripture does give us several truths we can rely on.

First, **evil does not come from God**, nor can we blame Him for the brokenness we experience. Evil entered the world when Satan deceived Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. Their disobedience—what we call original sin—opened the door for chaos, pain, and death to spread through creation. Romans 8:19–22 explains that all of creation has been groaning ever since, longing for the day when God will restore everything. Because of this brokenness, diseases, natural disasters, and tragedies can happen to anyone, even faithful believers.

Second, Scripture assures us that **evil will not last forever**. Matthew 25:41 tells us that one day God will banish evil completely, casting it into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. The suffering we see now is temporary, even though it feels overwhelming in the moment.

Third, until that final day comes, **God promises to be with His people**. He does not leave us alone in tragedy. He walks with us through disaster, grief, and loss. His presence does not always remove the pain, but it gives strength, comfort, and hope in the middle of it.

It is also important to remember that not all suffering is the same. Sometimes bad things happen because of our own choices. If we touch a hot stove, the burn is not God’s fault. Sometimes suffering comes from what we fail to do—like ignoring wisdom or refusing to act. And sometimes pain comes from the choices of others, such as a drunk driver causing a terrible accident.

God does intervene at times and prevents harm we never even knew was coming. But because of original sin—the “curse of creation”—we still live in a world where tragedy exists. This curse has affected humanity since the beginning of time.

Even so, God continues to work in the middle of suffering. He brings healing, growth, and hope out of situations that seem impossible. The Scriptures below remind us of His promises and His heart toward us.

Reflection

Take a moment to think about the hardest experiences you have faced or witnessed. Pain has a way of making life feel confusing and unfair. When tragedy strikes, it is normal to feel overwhelmed, frightened, or even angry. Many people wonder why God allowed something so terrible to happen, or whether He is distant or uncaring. These questions do not make you weak—they make you human.

But Scripture invites us to look deeper. The Bible teaches that suffering exists because the world is broken, not because God enjoys watching people hurt. God grieves with us, walks with us, and promises that pain will not have the final word. Even when we cannot understand the “why,” we can trust the “Who”—the God who stays close to the brokenhearted and works in ways we cannot always see.

As you reflect, consider how God has met you in difficult moments. Think about the people He placed in your life, the strength you didn’t know you had, or the hope that helped you keep going. God does not promise a life without hardship, but He does promise His presence, His comfort, and His future restoration. Your suffering is not meaningless, and you are never alone in it.

Scripture Nuggets

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” — Romans 8:28

“Tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope...” — Romans 5:3–5

“‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD... ‘to give you a future and a hope.’” — Jeremiah 29:11

“Consider it all joy... when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.” — James 1:2–3

“He will wipe away every tear... there will no longer be any death... or pain...” — Revelation 21:4

“The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory... to be revealed...” — Romans 8:18

“Delight yourself in the LORD... Commit your way to the LORD... and He will do it.” — Psalm 37:4–5

Reflection Question:

In times of great tragedy or deep difficulty, which of these Scripture Nuggets could bring comfort to your heart? Explain why that particular verse speaks to you.

Responding to the Question: “Why Did This Happen to Me?”

Imagine a young boy looking up with tears in his eyes, asking, “Does God hate me? Is He punishing me?” These are not small questions. They come from a place of fear and confusion.

If you were speaking to Beggar Boy, you might gently explain that God does not hate him. God is not looking for reasons to punish him. The brokenness of the world is the result of sin—not his personal failure, but the curse that has affected all creation since the fall. You could remind him that Jesus understands suffering because He experienced it Himself. And you could assure him that God loves him deeply and is near to those who are hurting.

The Hope of the Cross

When Jesus went to the cross, He carried the full weight of sin and its consequences. He took on every part of the curse—sickness, pain, suffering, and tragedy. Through His death and resurrection, He opened the way for us to be free from the curse of creation.

- “*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law...*” — Galatians 3:13
- “*I have been crucified with Christ... Christ lives in me...*” — Galatians 2:20
- “*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...*” — Revelation 21:1

Because of Christ, suffering does not have the final word. Pain is temporary. Hope is eternal. And one day, God will restore everything that has been broken.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people often blame God when tragedy strikes?
2. How does understanding the origin of sin and brokenness help explain why bad things happen? Which Scripture Nugget speaks most clearly to you during times of pain or confusion, and why?
3. What does it mean that evil is a “mystery,” and how does that shape the way we respond to suffering?
4. How would you comfort someone who believes God is punishing them because something bad happened?
5. In what ways have you seen God bring good out of a difficult or painful situation?
6. How does the promise of a future without suffering (Revelation 21:4) change the way we view present struggles?
7. What practical steps can a believer take to trust God when life feels out of control or unfair?