

SERMON NOTES (audio/notes are online @ HBChurch.net)



Series: **Hope in the Middle of Suffering and Evil** Speaker: Jason Robertson
Sermon: **HOW TO FOCUS WHILE SUFFERING – Romans 5:3, 8:18** Date: 09-23-2018

BAD THINGS HAPPEN FOR MANY REASONS:

- We live in a _____: *Bad things happen to the righteous and unrighteous alike.*
- We ignore _____ and make foolish decisions.

THERE IS HOPE: Romans 5:3 - ... we know that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope.

- When you suffer, your faith doesn't get _____ as much as your view of God gets _____.

WHEN BAD STUFF HAPPENS, REMEMBER:

THE GOOD NEWS: _____ . (Genesis 50:20 • 2 Corinthians 1:3-6 • Hebrews 12:5-12)

THE BAD NEWS: _____ .

THREE QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU FOCUS:

1. _____ am I here? (Exodus 14:1-31 • 1 Peter 4:19 • 2 Samuel 11 • 2 Samuel 12:1-15 • Judges 1:19)
2. _____ should I respond? (Matthew 4:1-11 • 2 Samuel 12:15-24 • Hebrews 12:5-12 • 1 Peter 4:19)
 - i. The Enemy will always offer a _____ - **Don't take it!**
 - ii. If it's a _____ - **Accept the consequences and take responsibility.**
 - iii. If it's a God-given _____ - **Hang tough, don't run.**
 - iv. **No matter how you got there, the way out** (1Corinthians 10:13 • Philippians 1:6) will always include...
 - a) Doing the _____
 - b) Telling the _____
 - c) Keeping my _____
 - d) Concern for _____
 - e) Concern for _____
3. _____ can I learn, especially about my relationship with Jesus? (John 9:1-3 • John 11:1-4 • Rom. 8:18 • James 1:2-4 • 1 Corinthians 15:19 • 1 Peter 5:6-10 • John 14:15 • 1 Timothy 6:12-14 • 2 Timothy 1:9)

ALWAYS READ THE LARGE PRINT! Romans 8:28 - *We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.* → **This promise is for His followers.** (John 14:15 • 1 Timothy 6:12-14 • 2 Timothy 1:9)

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

Please Complete These Question BEFORE Arriving at Your Life Group

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Can you remember a time where God was working for the good in your life even though you couldn't see it at the time?

QUICK REVIEW: 1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged or confused you? What was the one big thing from the worship service that blessed you?

2. Considering 1Corinthians 10:13 & Philippians 1:6, Pastor Jason said, "No matter how you got into the mess that you are in, the way out will always include (1) doing the right thing, (2) telling the truth, (3) keeping your commitments, (4-5) having concern for others and for Jesus' reputation. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

DIGGING DEEPER: 1. We explored a number of reasons why "bad stuff" happens. Saul and Ezra are two people who experienced the consequences of ignoring God's warnings and making foolish decisions. Read 1 Samuel 15:13-26 and then Ezra 9:5-7; 10-11 and jot down a few notes contrasting how these men dealt with both their mistakes and the consequences of those errors.

- Even though we know that God loves and cares for us, most of us still tend to deny our mistakes or to blame others. Why do you think that is?
- When bad stuff happens as a result of our actions it can be tough to admit our part of the problem. Can you think of anything that would help you own up to your mistakes?

2. Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. Paul's described his suffering from something he called "a thorn." God doesn't always take away our challenges or difficulties. There are some tough situations or circumstances God may never remove from our lives. How do the verses below help us hang on and trust God in the midst of hard times?

- Matthew 5:11-12
- 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
- Hebrews 12:10-11
- 1 Peter 5:6-10
- How can good come out of the difficulties that God hasn't taken away?

APPLY IT: If someone were to ask you, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" How would you answer based on both this week's sermon and Life Group discussion?

HBChurch cares about you & our city. If you would like talk to a pastor or counselor, we would be happy to meet you before you leave today. Also, you can email Pastor Jason at 44jason@gmail.com. Check out HBChurch.net for more info.