

GOD, WHY?



TRUSTING GOD WHEN LIFE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE

9/29/2024

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PART III: "THIS IS NOT THE END"

Luke 7:18-23 (NLT). *The disciples of John the Baptist told John about everything Jesus was doing. So John called for two of his disciples, and he sent them to the Lord to ask him, "Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?" John's two disciples found Jesus and said to him, "John the Baptist sent us to ask, 'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?'" At that very time, Jesus cured many people of their diseases, illnesses, and evil spirits, and he restored sight to many who were blind. Then he told John's disciples, "Go back to John and tell him what you have seen and heard—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor." And he added, "God blesses those who do not fall away because of me."*

REMEMBER: God always has the last Word and is writing a much bigger story than I can understand at the moment.

Romans 8:28 (NIV). *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those [who love him], who have been called according to his purpose.*

"Never interpret God's goodness through the lens of your circumstances. Rather, interpret your circumstances through the lens of God's goodness."

WE SEE THE GOODNESS OF GOD AND THE END OF THE STORY UNDERSTANDING THAT:

1. OUR [PAIN] IS TEMPORARY, OUR [JOY] IS ETERNAL.

1 Peter 4:12-13 (NIV). *Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.*

What awaits us is greater than what we are experiencing right now!

Romans 8:17-18 (NLT). *And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.*

2. OUR [STAY] IS TEMPORARY, OUR [HOME] IS ETERNAL.

Philippians 3:20-21 (NLT). *But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.*

Don't make this place your permanent home - we're just passing through!

Romans 8:21-23 (NLT). *creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering.*

3. OUR [CIRCUMSTANCES] ARE TEMPORARY, OUR [HOPE] IS ETERNAL.

1 Peter 1:3-4 (NLT). *All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.*

"Life is short, eternity is long ."



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