

Life Happens Trouble Happens

Introduction: The Stories Told By Our Scars

Question: What scars do you carry?

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. (Romans 8:28)

O Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide when I am in trouble? (Psalm 10:1 NLT)

Question: Where is God when trouble enters my life?

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 NIV)

1st Reality: "In this world you will have trouble"

This raises an essential question: What does Jesus mean by trouble? There are four basic categories of trouble we find in Scripture that describe the different kinds of painful experiences we encounter.

1st Experience: Pain From Bad Choices

2nd Experience: Pain From Good Choices

3rd Experience: Pain From Loss

4th Experience: Pain From Senseless Suffering

Challenge: This last type of trouble often puts us on the road called despair.

Reality: Much of the trouble we face is actually the consequence of the cycle of sin in our world.

Encouragement: Jesus makes it clear pain is a consequence of sin and typically not punishment for it. He offered two examples.

1. People killed by Pilate while offering sacrifices

About that time some people came up and told him about the Galileans Pilate had killed while they were at worship, mixing their blood with the blood of the sacrifices on the altar. Jesus

responded, "Do you think those murdered Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans? Not at all. (Luke 13:1-3 MSG)

2. People killed when a tower collapsed

And those eighteen in Jerusalem the other day, the ones crushed and killed when the Tower of Siloam collapsed and fell on them, do you think they were worse citizens than all other Jerusalemites? Not at all. (Luke 13:4-5 MSG)

Note: Jesus uses these examples to point out everyone needs to repent

Lord, if you kept a record of our sins, who, O Lord, could ever survive? (Psalm 130:2 NLT)

2nd Reality: "But take heart! I have overcome the world"

Note: Jesus doesn't say, "I am going to immediately fix the problem."

Our Challenge: Living in the already but the not yet!

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." (Revelation 21:3-4 NLT)

Conclusion: Three Encouraging Statements To Take With You

1st Encouraging Statement: Don't Give Up

2nd Encouraging Statement: Jesus Can Bring Good Out of Evil

3rd Encouraging Statement: You Aren't Alone

*But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand.
Psalm 10:14 NIV*