

GOD I HAVE QUESTIONS

GOD, HOW CAN I MAKE IT THROUGH THIS PAIN?

Pastor Ryan Kwon – June 12, 2016

Open in prayer.

Read Job 1:8-22 (ESV).

WHAT WE HAVE TO KNOW:

1. Know God Has Not Lost Control

- Read Job 1:8. This passage shows us the relationship between God and evil. God doesn't generate evil. He allows Satan to work, but God is ultimately in control of everything.
- Discuss this quote by Tim Keller: "This conveys vividly the asymmetrical relationship of God to evil. There is profound philosophy here. In the book of Job, we do not have a dualistic view of the world, in which there are two equal and opposite forces of good and evil. In that view, life is truly a battlefield and a "crap shoot" because there is no single force in charge. History is just a struggle between equally balanced forces of good and evil. There is no being powerful enough to carry out a coherent plan for history. The Bible shows us no such world. God is completely in charge. He has total control over Satan. Satan can go so far, and no further. God is clearly sovereign."

2. Know It's Okay To Not Know

- Read Job 38:2-4 (ESV).
- Discuss these statements:
 - "In your suffering, to not demand an answer is to love God for who He is and not for what He can give you."
 - "Even if God gave us all the reasons for WHY God does what He does...we couldn't understand." Discuss this statement.
- One of our values at TC is the Transformative Gospel of Grace which says, "We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to be a community that invites and seeks out the wounded, the broken-hearted, and the marginalized so that they can be transformed by the Gospel of grace into the image of Jesus, joining Him in His mission to transform the world. We are committed, through the Spirit's enabling power, to the belief that Grace is Jesus Himself coming to live in and through His people. Life in the Kingdom is empowered by the King of Kings, not human effort."
 - Discuss the last sentence in the value above. Have you surrendered to Jesus during your time of suffering? Trust Him to live in and through you.

WHAT WE HAVE TO DO:

1. Cry If You Want To

- Read Job 1:20-21 (ESV). What did Job do when he found out about all that he had lost?
- When you experience suffering, what is your response?
- Have you allowed yourself to be real and allowed God to love you through your suffering? Give examples.

2. Tell God It's All His

- Read Job 1:21-22 ESV
 - Reality Check: Everything is God's, not ours. To the degree you feel hurt/like you're being ripped off is the degree to which you believe everything belongs to you and not to God.

- Discuss the following statements:
 - When we build our identity on earthly things, then suffering hurts and steals your joy because your hope is in earthly things. This means you're relying on things that can be pulled away.
 - If you build your life on eternal things that can't be taken away from you...suffering presses you into real joy and then suffering drives you deeper into God and real joy.

3. Tell Satan He's a Liar

- Pastor Derwin says, "The scene of the crime is your mind." Satan loves to tell us lies and we need to tell him that he's a liar. Take a few minutes as a group to pray for God to help us recognize the lies of Satan and to replace those lies with God's truth.
- Pastor Ryan shared the story of his son choosing a birthday toy. Re-tell the story to the group and then discuss this statement, "God, You choose for me...because You always make good choices."
- Close with prayer.
 - Pray this over everyone in your group: If you're suffering and you need high-definition proof that God loves you, look to Jesus, who died for you. When He died, He didn't want anything from you He just loved you! Jesus doesn't love the future you or the potential you. He loves you as you are right now.