

Does Everything Happen For A Reason?

Romans 8:28

WHEN BAD STUFF HAPPENS:

- **The Good News:** *Everything happens for a reason.*
- **The Bad News:** *It's not always the reason we hoped for!*

ALWAYS READ THE LARGE PRINT!

Romans 8:28/ John 14:15/ Romans 1:6-7; 1 Timothy 6:12-14 & 2 Timothy 1:9

- **The Promise:**
It says, "In all things God *works for good*" – NOT "all things are *good!*"
- **Two "Large Print" Conditions:**
If we *love God* AND if we're part of *God's family*.

TWO REASONS WHY

A BAD THING MIGHT BE A GOOD THING

Genesis 50:20/ 2 Corinthians 1:3-6/ Hebrews 12:5-12

- ❶ If God has something *better in mind*.
- ❷ If it's a necessary *step toward a greater good*.

FOUR REASONS WHY

A BAD THING MIGHT BE A BAD THING

- ❶ We live in a *fallen world*.
Genesis 1-4:8/ 1 Peter 4:12/ Hebrews 9:27 & 1 Corinthians 15:21 & 26/ Isaiah 5:20
- ❷ If we've ignored *God's warnings*.
Romans 6:23/ Proverbs 1:23-33/ Deuteronomy 28:1-2 & 15
- ❸ If we've made *foolish decisions*.
Proverbs 19:2-3/ Proverbs 22:3
- ❹ If we're caught *in the backwash*.
Daniel 1:1-6/ Job/ 1 Peter 4:19

SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO

1 Corinthians 15:19/ 1 Peter 5:6-10/ Romans 8:35-39

- A promise called "*heaven*."

TAKING IT HOME

1. As a result of this week's teaching and study, how has your understanding of why bad stuff happens been affirmed, changed or expanded?

2. Revelation 21:4 says that in heaven God will "wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." How can His promise help you face trials this week?

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- **The Promise:**
It says, "In all things God _____" – NOT "all things are _____!"
- **Two "Large Print" Conditions:**
If we _____ AND if we're part of _____.

TWO REASONS WHY

A BAD THING MIGHT BE A GOOD THING

Genesis 50:20/ 2 Corinthians 1:3-6/ Hebrews 12:5-12

- ❶ If God has something _____.
- ❷ If it's a necessary _____.

FOUR REASONS WHY

A BAD THING MIGHT BE A BAD THING

- ❶ We live in a _____.
Genesis 1-4:8/ 1 Peter 4:12/ Hebrews 9:27 & 1 Corinthians 15:21 & 26/ Isaiah 5:20
- ❷ If we've ignored _____.
Romans 6:23/ Proverbs 1:23-33/ Deuteronomy 28:1-2 & 15
- ❸ If we've made _____.
Proverbs 19:2-3/ Proverbs 22:3
- ❹ If we're caught _____.
Daniel 1:1-6/ Job/ 1 Peter 4:19

SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO

1 Corinthians 15:19/ 1 Peter 5:6-10/ Romans 8:35-39

- A promise called "_____."

RESOURCES FOR *THE DA VINCI CODE*

Seminar - Responding to the Da Vinci Code

Mon., May 22, 7-9 PM, Activity Center, Melrose Campus, \$5/person or \$7/two people

A brief guide to the five issues in question

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/areas/biblestudies/articles/060426b.html>

Expanded responses

<http://www.jesusanddavinci.com/> - most comprehensive response

<http://www.allaboutgod.com/da-vinci-code-truth.htm>

Video sound bites in response to questions people are asking - Lee Strobel

http://www.leestrobel.com/LS_DaVinciCode.html

Growth Group Homework

For the week of May 21, 2006

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what did you find most challenging, helpful, interesting or troubling? If you could have asked Pastor Larry a question during the message, what would you have asked him?

MY STORY

1. 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?

2. If someone were to ask you, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" How would you answer based on both this week's teaching and/or your own experience?

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 have a tendency 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 like Ezra did?

2. We learned this week that God may have something "better in mind" even when we are experiencing "tough stuff." Read the story of Naaman in 2 Kings 5:1-3 & 9-15; what good came out of Naaman's challenge? What did it take on Naaman's part to see and experience this good?

God doesn't always take away our challenges or difficulties as He did with Naaman. How can good come out of the difficulties that God hasn't taken away?

3. 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 the "tough stuff" or hard times?

Matthew 5:11-12

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Hebrews 12:10-11

Isaiah 43:1-3