

WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

ser3976 When Life Sucks, Pt 1
October 4, 2020 E & L

I. POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Allow me to commence this homily by saying I am aware that some of you do not like the title of this month's sermon series—"When Life Sucks." How do I know that? Because you have told me. This was from my sister, one of my true, loyal supporters and fans, whom I love dearly.

"Bruce, I loved the sermon series, but I do NOT (capital letters) like it when anyone uses the word "SUCKS"! Love, your Sister

And to be honest, I'm not crazy about the word either. With that said, it is a common expression today used to say, "Life ... "

Stinks (as my father's generation would say)

Pretty crappy

Lousy

Not where I'd like it to be

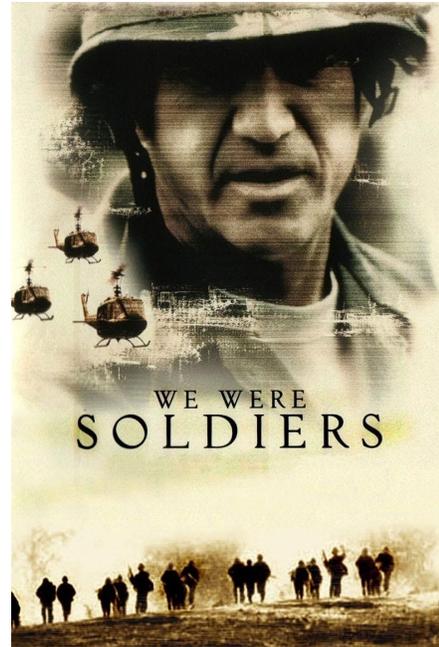
Sh***y

Horrible

Ugly

You ... fill in the blank.

In the movie *We Were Soldiers* (March 1, 2002), [\(show photo\)](#) which is based on a true story, there is a scene where Sergeant Major Basil Plumley, played by Sam Elliott, is greeted by a soldier with, “Good morning!” This was Sgt. Maj. Plumley’s reply. [\(show video clip - “Who made you the \[expletive\] weatherman?”\)](#) In other words, who said the day will be good? Most likely, it will “suck!”



I AM NOT A FAN OF WAR MOVIES—war is ugly. But this movie is one war movie I was able to watch. It is brilliantly cast (Mel Gibson, Madeleine Stowe, Greg Kinnear, and Sam Elliott, to name a few) with a very moving and powerful message.

When
Bad Things
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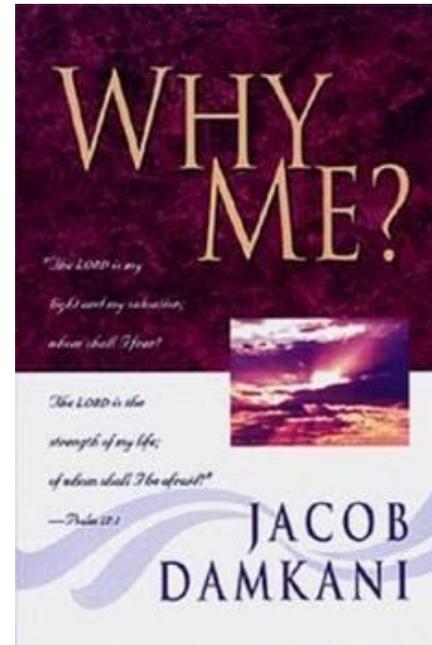
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HAROLD S.
KUSHNER

B. This subject is not something that has been avoided by writers, motivational speakers, movie directors, and authors. When I googled books with the title, Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People, [\(show photo\)](#), no less than 20+ authors’ names appeared. And, that does not include books by the title, “Why me?” [\(show photo, p3\)](#)

NOTE! Harold Kushner is a rabbi, and Jacob Damkani is a televangelist with a Messianic message.

C. What I will share with you today is not from any of the 20 authors I've mentioned. Some of what I share may or not be included in their writings. What I'm sharing with you today are my observations as I see them in light of what is written in the Holy Bible.



When I was young in ministry, I was scrambling for information and material. Now, after being in ministry for over 40 years, it's how do I select and simplify 40 years of data? LOL!

D. Let us pray!

II. WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

A. What is good? What we consider good or bad may not be what God considers good or bad. The Bible says, **Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. *James 1:17*** (NKJV)

Walk through the Holy Scriptures:

1. Joseph’s betrayal by his brothers. Good or bad? We would say, “Bad.” Yet we know that it was all a part of God’s plan. Listen to what Joseph tells his brothers 22 years after they lied to their father and sold him into slavery.

19 Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for *am* I in the place of God? **20** But as for you, you meant evil against me; *but* God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as *it is* this day, to save many people alive. **21** Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

2. King Nebuchadnezzar’s seven years of insanity. He’s the Golden Head of Empires. ([show photo](#))

NOTE! I despise the **new** BC and AD. We live in a world that is doing everything possible to strip God and Christ from history books. What used to be BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno

Domini—the year of our Lord) is now BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era), which purposely removes the “Christian reference.”

Daniel 2		“Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”	
	Golden Head	Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon	Nebuchadnezzar’s Babylon 605 to 562BCE
	Silver Body	After Nebuchadnezzar “Inferior”	Nabonidus’ Babylon 556 to 539BCE
	Bronze Waist	Rules The World	Persian Empire 539 to 330BCE
	Iron Legs	Crushes all Others	Alexander the Great 330 to 323BCE
	Iron and Clay Feet	Breaks to Pieces	Alexander’s Kingdom Divided 323BCE

God smote Nebuchadnezzar with seven years of insanity. If you were King Nebby or his family, you

would certainly not consider insanity a good gift. Correct? But God's ways are not our ways nor His thoughts our thoughts. Look at the result of 7 years of insanity.

Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

³⁴ And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing;

He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth.

No one can restrain His hand

Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me. ³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

IN LIGHT OF THESE SCRIPTURES, it's rather humorous to hear the Democrats and Republicans speak as if America's future depends on them. Some of us may think it does (I for one), but the reality is America's future will be determined

by God directly relational to her iniquities and willingness to repent.

3. Then, there are times when we screw it up. God had nothing to do with our screw-up at all. Yet, because He is God, and His promises do not fail—remember He said, “ALL things work for the good of those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose.” *Romans 8:28*

Take King David, for example, and his adulterous one-night stand with Bathsheba and the consequential murder of her husband, Uriah. Do I believe for a moment that this was God’s will? No. And, I believe the Bible bears that out. Let’s look at it!

1 Kings 15:5

... David did *what was* right in the eyes of the LORD, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah the Hittite.

Furthermore, it was from Bathsheba—the one wife of David (he had at least 20, maybe more) from whom the Messiah would come. Why not Michal, David’s first wife? Or Abigail, an intelligent woman of noble character? Because God’s ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts our thoughts.

B. Ponder this! Who are we to question why God allows and does what He does? Seriously!

1. Do we say to the ocean, “Hold your place!”?

2. Do we say to the planets, “This is your course? Don’t vary from it.”?
3. Do we say to the clouds, “Pour forth rain,” and they do?
4. Do we say to the sun, “Awaken and rise?” “Sleep and set!”?
5. Do we say to the snow, hail, hurricane, tornado, fire and lightning, “Be my artillery!”?
6. Do we say to Creation, “Supply food for every living being!”?
7. Do we understand the foundations of the earth? What makes it spin on its axis? Where is its cornerstone laid?
8. Do we understand why and how the stars sing?

C. Listen, we all know there is reaping for what we sow. That’s a God-given principle set down when God created the heavens and the earth (**Genesis 1:11**). Yet God, in His omnipotence, will work out ALL things in keeping with His will. As people of faith, we accept that. As people of faith, we rest in that truth. As people of faith, we believe that what we don’t understand on earth we will understand in Heaven. Interestingly enough, this truth is found in the “love chapter,” **1 Corinthians 13:12**.

(I’d like to close with one more thought.)

III. IF GOOD ONLY HAPPENED IN THE LIVES OF THE GOOD, THEN PEOPLE WOULD BE GOOD

FOR SELFISH AND PRIDEFUL REASONS, NOT TO PLEASE GOD.

A. Here's what I mean. If bad things did not happen to good people, they would not be good for long. Selah! Got it?

We would be good for selfish reasons; we would become prideful and judgmental of all who suffer loss, pain, sickness, infirmity, deformity, the making of wrong decisions, and the list goes on.

The Bible says of Jesus,

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 4:15-16

How would we, as children of faith, understand what it is ...

1. To have a parent die of Alzheimer's if it never touched us?
2. To have a loved one fight cancer, or even die of cancer, if it never touched us?
3. To be deaf or blind if it never touched us?
4. To struggle to make ends meet if it never touched us?
5. To go through the pain of divorce if it never touched us?

6. To lose a battle to addiction if it never touched us?
And, the list is a thousand miles long.

B. Furthermore, how would we gain wisdom if we didn't have to live with life's sorrows and grief? *Ecclesiastes 1:18* tells us,

For with much wisdom comes much sorrow; the more knowledge the more grief. (Lord, let me be dumb. Right? ☺)

And, Isaiah, speaking of Jesus, says,

He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.
Isaiah 53:3

(My time is up!)

IV. INVITATION

A. Are you struggling to believe in God because you think He's been unkind to you or your family? Do you believe the world's an ugly place, therefore, there can't be a God? And if there is a God, certainly He is not a God of love. Look to the Cross. Begin there. It explains everything that's unexplainable.

B. You say, "How do I do that?" Start here:

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
(*Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23*);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)

(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser3976, *Why Bad Things Happen to Good People* (When Life Sucks, Pt1) 1825 words (approximately 14.0 minutes with Invitation and no HG detours).