

GOD WATCHES. 27.9.2020am

Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

Sometimes we get disappointed in God and people because we operate on the assumption that bad things shouldn't happen. We ask, 'why do bad things happen to good people?' (A lot of assumptions here: what is bad, what is good? Our assumptions determine how we read and receive the Word and people). Others pondered this question:

- Jeremiah asked it: *"Why does the way of the wicked succeed?"* 12:1
- Habakkuk asked: *"Why do You remain silent when the wicked devours one more righteous than he?"* 1:13
- David also lamented, *"Behold, such are the wicked; they are always at ease and they increase their riches. Surely in vain have I cleansed my heart and washed my hands in innocence because all day long I have been plagued and I am chastised every morning"* Psalms 73:12-14

There are too many variables for us to be able to answer why we are confronted with what may appear to be 'bad' or 'evil'. We never know the whole story, but God does 'He knows the end from the beginning' (Isaiah 46); free will is involved; ignorance may be involved due to a limited relationship with Christ, a lack of knowledge of Him, and His Word, lack of experience, lack of prayer so the answer though it may be brought to us is hidden from us; lack of ability to process at any depth; some have strong views on why sickness comes; some are stronger on spiritual activity than others, etc. etc.

Quite a clue for us in Deuteronomy 29:29:

- ²⁹ *"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."*
- Solomon advised: ⁸ *"If you see the oppression of the poor, and the violent perversion of justice and righteousness in a province, do not marvel at the matter; **for high official watches over high official, and higher officials are over them.**"* Ecclesiastes 5:8

What we do need to be 100% confident in, and this can only be done by faith, is that **God sees, and God knows**. He is never perplexed, confused, distressed – He knows, and He (is the only one) who has the whole picture. We saw in Exodus 3, that He hears the cries, He sees the oppression, He answers, and He acts – through us. In other words, God is not blind; He is not deaf; He is not unmoved, but He may be limited – by us, that is our choice. God will accomplish His purpose and He promised, promises, to bring righteousness – it is never far off though it may seem to be ... but God will go a long way to execute His counsel. He watches and He will send someone to execute His counsel.

So how things come, why things come, from whom they come, how long it lasts – all these things have tendency to become the focus and make up much of our questioning; however – God is watching.

The Good Samaritan – we know God's heart for the downtrodden, the beaten, the brutalised, the disadvantaged, the poor, the hungry, the sick, the demonised, the broken and contrite heart He will never despise. We also know and understand His unchanging, unconditional love towards **every soul** - He doesn't love the disenfranchised any more than the rich – He doesn't love any one any more than any other one. **This is an assumption that must be totally consolidated in every crevice of our heart – else we will also be bigoted on some level.**

The Good Samaritan – the account demonstrates the posture of humility that love creates in our heart. It also shows the distance Christ grows to try and save a soul, to show and extend family.

Read: Luke 10:25-37

Religion tends to ask questions in upside down fashion. Had the lawyer asked 'who am I a neighbour to' Jesus may have brought forward a different answer. Religion may walk past and justify, but Mercy is the love of God; is love stooped towards us. Jesus, in trying to win this lawyer's soul, leads him, by way of this account, to a lost position. This account is primarily about the Good Samaritan, perfectly reflecting Christ and of course, God Himself, love enacted upon with salvation in mind. Mercy is the love of God in us stooped towards those who require care, require being lifted, require to be healed, require to be carried, housed, and provided for.

What is written and how do you read it?

What of the man on the road?

I wonder if his attitude towards his suffering might have been according to a Psalm he had heard.

'Teach me Your way, O LORD, and lead me in a smooth path, because of my enemies. ¹² Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and such as breathe out violence. ¹³ I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.' Psalm 27 (without hope he may have (fully) died).

It is impossible to lose hope when we know and believe that, as David declared and prophesied:

"Surely Your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the LORD forever" (Psalm 23:6 NLT). There is a world of difference in expectation (entitlement) between "Surely only good things are going to happen to me!" and "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me."

David had experienced bad things happening to good people. David had personally been the cause of it at least once. David also knew the goodness of God; and knew that no matter how bad or evil or difficult something seems, God can and wills to work it out for good. Not all things are good; but with God, all things can work together for good.

If you believe your disappointment, your issue, your health, your dilemma, your financial position, your difficulties are insurmountable then perhaps even the Good Samaritan may not be able to help you.

Surely Your goodness and Your unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life...

Shall: legal term

Follow: chase, run after, pursue – think about God following you, watching you, watching over you to accomplish what concerns you today.

Psalm 23

If you don't like today, then please declare your tomorrow by realising that God is with you, for you, following you with **His** goodness and mercy. He has right things in store for each one. Right things are good things, but we remember that God works all things – in all things, He works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. He watches. He sees. He works. He'd prefer to work with us. We need to walk into the future with the promises of God, much louder than questions around our present and past.

Know this, that God is for you, with you, following you, working with you, working for you. He's the Good Samaritan. He's the Good Samaritan in us. We are also a good Samaritan to those He is watching.