

My Thoughts for Sunday, 31 July 2016

“But Why, Lord?”

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 29:29

What do you do with those often seemingly unanswered prayers? How do you cope with that promotion you didn't get? You know you were more qualified than the one chosen. How does one cope with the loss of a loved one in their prime? The loss of a child to some unexpected disease or accident? I have so often heard the statement; “Why did God allow that good man to have such bad things happen to him?” Why does God allow so much evil to exist? Why, God? It seems that no matter what bad things happen to us in this world, many people point their finger at God as the one causing or allowing these things to happen. Yes, God does allow bad things to happen to those people we look upon as good, but are they truly good? But, are they good in our eyes or in the eyes of God?

We must realize, God did not bring evil into our world. Evil was caused by man disobeying the one command of his Creator. Evil was initially introduced into our world when Satan lied to Eve and told her and Adam that if they disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit that they would be just like God, knowing good from evil. Although, prior to that act of disobedience, there was no evil to compare to the good that God had created. However, Adam and Eve were very much aware of the fact that it was wrong to disobey God's direct command. They had been clearly told the consequence of such action. Death! And death they truly experienced in that moment of disobedience. They immediately experienced that spiritual death that was evident with their separation from God. They were no longer in direct contact with Him. They no longer had the closeness, the joy of walking with and talking directly to Him in the Garden. They had become outcasts from His presence. Since that time, through that single act of disobedience, sin was brought upon all mankind. Through that sin death was in turn the end result for all mankind as their reward. From then on mankind would be separated spiritually from God and would eventually experience mortal death, never intended for God's creation. *“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned.” (Romans 5:12)*

How often have you heard the phrase, “But why Lord?” How many times might you have asked the same in your frustrations of life and the bad things that happen to you or your friends? Aren't we being a bit presumptuous in our thinking when we question God as to why He is allowing these things to happen? Aren't we

attempting to bring God down to our level and expect Him to act according to our judgments and feelings of right and wrong? Who are we, His creation, to be bold enough and think we are intelligent enough to counsel God, our Creator? The question arises in Job 15:14 regarding our lack of abilities to question God... *“What are mortals, that they could be pure, or those born of woman, that they could be righteous?”* I think it’s time we took a step back and realize all the good our Lord continues to do for us, when we don’t deserve it, and leave the questioning and counseling of God alone.

A prayer I so often hear is for God to destroy all evil people in this world, then it would be a nice place to live. The thought might sound good on the surface until one honestly ask themselves, “Who would be left to enjoy this world emptied of all evil people?” We just read the apostle Paul’s words to the Christians in Rome, that *“as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned.”* We are all sinners, all evil, in the eyes of our righteous and Holy God! Take the advice of a longtime friend, “Be careful what you pray for.”

Looking back to our text from Deuteronomy we read that God has secrets, not yet revealed; *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”* Some of the secrets of God may never be realized by many of us this side of heaven, but God’s solution for the evil in this world is no secret. His solution has been revealed and was implemented two thousand years ago. God left His glorious home in heaven to take on the life of a human, without sin. He was beaten and crucified on a cross, taking our sins upon Himself, that we might be justified and redeemed, made holy in His eyes. This God did for us without being asked. Without our being deserving. Without any strings attached. There is nothing left for us to do to gain our salvation from this sinful world! There is nothing we ever could do! Nothing else we need to do! Jesus’ last words on the cross said it all, “IT IS FINISHED.” He had done it all, for us!

Very little He asks of us in return. Believe! Share the good news of our salvation with others! We need to realize that God wants only good for those who love Him and believe in what He has done for mankind. Trust in Him. Understand that some of those prayers He seems to have not answered was for our own good. He is keeping in store for us even better answers than we could imagine or request. It inevitably comes down to TRUST. It is so common to give this advice, “Put your trust in the Lord” Easy advice to give, much more difficult to practice. Proverbs 3:5 states, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”* If we trust in the Lord, especially in those times when everything

is going against us, then is when we truly see His hand in our lives. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote; *“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”*

Let's concentrate on living in His love, trusting in His decisions and stop trying to direct Him. He has created us, redeemed us, and continues to fulfill all our needs.