Sunday, August 16, 2020

The Search for Explanations

Job 3-37

David H. McKinley

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Humans need more than information; we crave explanations.

[11]Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had
come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz
the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite.
They made an appointment together to come to show him
sympathy and comfort him. [12]And when they saw him from a
distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their
voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust
on their heads toward heaven. [13]And they sat with him on the
ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word
to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.
—Job 2:11-13

What does suffering _____?

[1]After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his
birth. [2]And Job said: [3]"Let the day perish on which I was born,
and the night that said, 'A man is conceived.'" —Job 3:1-3

Why me? Why this? Why now?

[11]Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and
expire?… [20]Why is light given to him who is in misery, and life
to the bitter in soul… [23]Why is light given to a man whose way
is hidden, whom God has hedged in? —Job 3:11, 20, 23

"Suffering is much more than a philosophical problem. It's
a personal experience that engulfs the body, mind and soul
of the sufferer. It's emotional, intellectual, circumstantial and
spiritual."

What do you _____ about suffering?

Suffering is punishment for wrong doing vs. blessing is favor
for right living.

[4]As for you, you whitewash with lies; worthless physicians are
you all. [5]Oh that you would keep silent, and it would be your
wisdom! —Job 13:4-5

[2]I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you
all. [3]Shall windy words have an end? Or what provokes you that
you answer? —Job 16:2-3

Notes:

What do we _____ about suffering?

- **Suffering is** _____
- **Suffering is Often** _____
- **Suffering is Sometimes** _____
- **Suffering Shapes** _____

[3]Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4]and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. —Romans 5:3-4

[71]It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn Your statutes. [72]The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces. —Psalm 119:71-72

- **Suffering is Sometimes** _____

"Your suffering is more powerfully shaped by what's in your heart than by what's in your body or the world around you." —Paul David Tripp, *Suffering*

- **Suffering May be** _____

"You desire to know the art of living, my friend? It is contained in this phrase: make use of suffering." —Henri-Frédéric Amiel

What is your _____ in suffering?

"The total amount of suffering per year in the natural world is beyond all decent contemplation… In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, and nothing but pitiless indifference." —Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him." —Job 13:15 NKJV

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." —C.S. Lewis

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David H. McKinley, Pastor-Teacher

davidhmckinley.com

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