

## 7/30/23 "What is Evil?" Job 2:13-22, MEV

**INTRODUCTION:** Who has suffered? Who has drawn nearer to God in it? Who has seen people turn away from God because of it?

Warnie... In addition to drawing near, how do we get through?

**MAIN IDEA: Trust God's goodness.** Let me explain in 3 steps.

### I. First, God is good.

**Mark 10:18, MEV:** He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good, except God alone.

**Good:** *agathos* = excelling in any respect

- A. everything He does is good
- B. all He created was good

**Genesis 1:31, MEV:** God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

- C. part of His good creation was free will (ability to choose)

**Genesis 2:16-17, MEV:** <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

**ILLUSTRATION:** BofHS, Presence, voice, words to us

### II. Second, people corrupted God's good creation

- A. using their free will to bring evil (sin)

**Romans 5:12, MEV:** Therefore as sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, so death has spread to all men, because all have sinned.

- B. we are completely corrupted...minds, bodies, feelings

**Romans 3:10-16, TPT:** <sup>10</sup> There is no one who always does what is right, no, not even one! <sup>11</sup> There is no one with true spiritual insight, and there is no one who seeks after God alone. <sup>12</sup> All have deliberately wandered from God's ways. All have become depraved and unfit. Kindness has disappeared from them all, not even one is good. <sup>13</sup> Their words release a stench, like the smell of death—foul and filthy! Deceitful lies roll off their tongues. The venom of a viper drips from their lips. <sup>14</sup> Bitter profanity flows from their mouths, only meant to cut and harm. <sup>15</sup> They are infatuated with violence and murder. <sup>16</sup> They release ruin and misery wherever they go.

**NOTE:** No one is all good or all bad, but some give in to great evil.

- C. we continue to have free will

**Deuteronomy 30:19, MEV:** I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life [see also John 3:16, Romans 10:9]

**ILLUSTRATION:** '83 knew not good; w/ God, see my corruption

### III. Finally, Jesus brought back God's goodness to us

- A. He is God & good
- B. He conquered evil at the cross (sin, death, devil)
  - 1. taking on sin, dying, rising again
  - 2. making a way for us to be cleansed, changed

**Hebrews 10:22, MEV:** let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse them from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

- C. He is bringing good, one life at a time

**2Peter 3:9, NLT:** The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

- 1. relieving inward suffering with hope of total relief
- 2. free will necessary for salvation; suffering continues
- 3. suffering will grow worse (*Revelation*, enemy knows his time grows short, sin becoming more obvious)
- 4. Jesus will end suffering when He returns (Rev.)

**ILLUSTRATION:** Mike Briglio

**CONCLUSION:** Job trusted God. Will we trust God and His goodness even when we don't understand? (weep, mourn with but trust His goodness)

**ALT TAB:** salvation? Angry with God? Prayer for needs... separate, individual

