

"Why Bad Things Happen to Good People"

Narrow view of events in your life.

Evil in the world.

Sarah Ames, "Kids of the Kingdom,"

My 7-year-old daughter, Jessica, is a deep thinker when it comes to theological questions. Recently we discussed why bad things happen sometimes, re-reading the story of Adam and Eve and how sin came into the world.

Later that week, Jessica was ill and had to stay home from school. Feeling miserable, she told me: "**If only Adam and Even hadn't eaten the fruit, I wouldn't be sick.**" Before I could answer, she added: "**Of course, if they didn't eat it, we'd be sitting here naked.**"

Joseph was a good guy that had many bad things happen...

Sold into slavery

Potiphar's Wife

Genesis 39:9 (NRSV)

How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?"

1. Bitterness

Genesis 39:21 (NRSV)

²¹ But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love; he gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.

2. The person who doesn't find **positive meaning** is likely to struggle a great deal more

Genesis 45:7–8 (NRSV)

⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Romans 8:28 (NRSV)

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

What if we raised our expectations that God is working on it.

Higher Expectations

VBS Story this week is Joseph**Genesis 45:1–15 (NRSV)***Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers*

45 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

⁷ God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but

God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹ Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰ You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹ I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ ¹² And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. ¹³ You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” ¹⁴ Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.