



MARINERSCHURCH

Series: On the Table
Title: How can a good God allow suffering?
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You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result... (Genesis 50:20)

theodicy [three-od-uh-see]

The vindication of divine goodness and providence in view of the existence of evil.

Why?

A Result of the Fall.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, in this way death spread to all people, because all sinned. (Romans 5:12)

The Consequence of Sin.

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

The Purposes of God.

For it has been granted to you on Christ's behalf not only to believe in him, but also suffer for him... (Philippians 1:29)

1. Start with God, not the Suffering.

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

2. Look for God's Plan.

Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)

"Our values determine our evaluations. If we value comfort more than character, then trials will upset us. If we value the material and physical more than the spiritual, we will not be able to count it all joy. If we live only for the present and forget the future, then trials will make us bitter, not better." (Warren Wiersbe)

3. Trust that God is Good.

"You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world." (John 16:33)

You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is refined by fire—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:6-7)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18).

Reflection Question:

How have you seen God turn something that initially caused pain in your life to be for your good? How does this lead you into deeper trust in Him?