The Pat Riley Story: Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People

David Banning

INTRODUCTION

- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- Why do bad things happen to good people, dedicated people, disciples of Jesus? Why doesn't God do something about all of that?
- I think he gives us what we need to understand suffering. I don't know that He tells us everything we'd like to know about it.

1 Why Do People Suffer?

Numbers 14:33; Proverbs 23:29–30; Job 2:7

- Sometimes people suffer because they are being punished by God for their sins.
- I think sometimes people suffer as a consequence of their foolish choices. Sometimes people do dumb things. And as a result of that, bad things happen to them.
- Sometimes in the Bible we find people suffering because of the sins of other people.
- Sometimes righteous people who find themselves in a wicked nation wind up suffering with the wicked.
- Sometimes in the Bible, we see people suffering because they are being assaulted by the devil.
- Sometimes people suffer simply as the part of the natural course of life.

2 Can I Know Why I Am Suffering?

Job 4:7–8; Ezekiel 18:2–3; Proverbs 3:5–6

- We also see in Scripture that very often people attribute their suffering to the wrong source.
- Eliphaz was wrong. Job was not suffering because of sin. He was being assaulted by the devil.
- So can I know? My answer to that is yes. And no.
- If you're passing through a season of suffering in your life and you really don't understand what's going on, maybe one of the things to do is pause and to ask, am I outside the will of God?
- With all of his frustration and all of his troubles and all of his struggles, the thing that he absolutely never did is he never gave up on God.
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart. And do not lean in your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.

3 Why Doesn't God Just Eliminate All Suffering?

2 Corinthians 12:7

- The atheist ignores the possibility that maybe God allows us to suffer not because he doesn't love us, but because he does.
- What Paul came to understand is that God used this thorn, whatever it is, as a way of keeping him humble because he had some great privileges and the danger of pride was real.
- Paul would talk about how he could rejoice in his imprisonment. Because it opened opportunities to share the gospel.
- But frankly, I've learned far more lessons wading through the trenches of adversity.
- If you can't figure out why this bad thing is happening to you, maybe just stop worrying about why and start thinking about what? What can I learn here? How can this help me?
- If God was going to eliminate all suffering, doesn't it just make sense that the place he would surely have to begin is at Calvary?

THE CHALLENGE

So trust in the Lord with all your heart. Don't lean in your own understanding. Have you trusted him tonight?

MY NOTES