Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Perhaps the greatest trial for faith is the puzzle of why evil and suffering exist.

If God is the all-powerful and loves humankind, as the “BIBLE” teaches, why does He permit the good to suffer and the evil prosper, as so often happens?

Why does He permit poverty and illness and war, which destroy innocent and guilty alike?

This puzzle is the theme of the anonymous book of Job, one of the great masterpieces of ancient literature.

God allows Satan to test Jobs faith by taking away this good man’s wealth, his children and finally his health.

Most of the book consists of Job’s poetic agonies, for the philosophical problem proved to be more painful than pain itself.

His friends were no help.

They simply concluded that he was being punished for some great sins he had committed.

But the simplistic view that virtue is always rewarded would never square with the undeserved suffering of JESUS, the only sinless man that ever lived.

JESUS Himself offered a key to part of the riddle when He said that our heavenly Father, “makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”.

“Reason, free will and a bounteous environment are gifts from God to all men, good and bad alike, to use as they wish”.

But man is sinful; and in consequence, the society he creates includes many injustices.

The poor, the underprivileged, the war victims and the criminals all arise out of the imperfect society.

But they are man’s responsibility, not GOD’s.

There are glimpses of loving purpose even in the ills and misfortunes of life.

Pain, a common mode of suffering, is needed to warn us when we touch a hot stove or when we have appendicitis.

Gravity, which causes a disabled plane to crash, is necessary to hold us on our planet and to keep the elements of the universe in balance.

Unhappiness is simply the dark side of our capacity to feel happiness.

The need to work for a living enables us to fulfill our abilities and saves us from becoming a race of jellyfish.

Yet the puzzle is not completely solved, for we still do not fully understand GOD’s purpose.

But we can safely put our trust in His love.

Since I was a child, GOD’s grace to me has given me a sense of mission, so that even in my most willful moments, I could not act simply as impulse led me without the guilt trip of realizing right from wrong.

GOD has purpose for me: to glorify GOD and help other people.

I wish I could say I have always been faithful to GOD’s mission for me.

I know that I have not.

But I thank GOD that I know He sends me and in following JESUS I can move bravely into the world.

When we face moral decisions at work, in our pleasures, or in human relationships, our Christian faith dare not be set aside.

 I know that we all know of, or have some friends with great frame of mind, but they have no picture.

When we have people over to our house we do not point to a frame with no picture hanging on the wall and say, isn’t that a beautiful frame.

I hope that during this short vision I can help create a picture to a solution that can help in solving some problems that we have in this world that inflicts suffering on GOD’s children.

Michael Jackson did a song that shows us one spark of the nuculas or catalyst of this solution.

The song is called man in the mirror.

In a world of revolutionary leaders, movements and ideas stand JESUS CHRIST and His invitation to join the Kingdom of GOD.

To those who think they can attach His ideas to the way things have always been done, JESUS cries scornfully, “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; if he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskin; if he does, the wine is lost and so are the skins; but new wine is for fresh skins”. ( Mark 2: 21-22 )

Some people have described JESUS as a revolutionist, but in truth he was far more radical than most revolutionist.

He knew His Jewish countrymen as a proud people, restless and unhappy under the rule of the Roman Empire.

Widespread injustice and poverty were part of His daily diet.

Nevertheless, He didn’t organize a revolt against Rome – not because he was unconcerned with the plight of His people, but because He was concerned with the basic needs of not only the Hebrews, but of all humankind.

JESUS saw the political problems of Israel as only one aspect of a more serious matter.

While some people insisted that political independence would solve everything, JESUS knew that a man will always be a slave until he finds his true freedom in GOD.

JESUS was much more concerned with altering people than with altering governments.

The revolution He advocated was aimed at changing the very hearts of people.

This was far too radical for many of JESUS’ contempories.

Even today people prefer to look for easier ways to bring about a better world.

Who likes to think that their biggest problem in life is their own self !

But whatever we may think of our human condition, GOD’s word holds up a mirror that reflects a true picture.

Once in my life I used to say, “How can GOD hold up a mirror?”. When, GOD IS INVISIBLE:…but today I saw Him in the sparkling eyes and the happy smile of a beautiful trusting child.

GOD IS A SPIRIT:…but today in a hospital, I felt His healing presence in a touch of a skilled and compassionate nurse.

GOD IS SILENT:…but today He spoke to me clearly and lovingly through the encouraging voice of a cherished and faithful friend.

GOD IS INDESCRIBABLE:…but today He revealed Himself to me through a perfect rose, a radiant sunrise and a brilliant rainbow.

As the great teacher that I have read about in the BIBLE, it is like, and I found this to be an excellent way to visualize GOD put into words.

Now this change of heart, or revolution that GOD has for His children is never complete, but always in the process of happening.

The lines of battle stretch beyond our eyes, but there are two main thrust of the struggle in which we are involved.

The first thrust is the inward battle, the personal revolution.

Even though we may be baptized and confirmed Christians blessed with the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit, we must continually strive to do GOD’s will, to be obedient, faithful disciples in our daily living.

I would like to add that obedience is not popular in our modern experience.

It doesn’t sell many books.

Instead we look for self-improvement, self acceptance, even self-fulfillment in the name of religion.

We are never far from the brink of pride and self-indulgence.

In other words we should live so that when we tell someone that we are a Christian, it confirms their curiosity instead of surprising them.

The second thrust of our Christian task is to proclaim GOD’s Kingdom to the rest of His creation.

Our Lord realized the need for helpers. (Read Luke 10:1-11)

Today the opportunity to become a helper and share the gospel grows in a variety of ways.

Christians are called to lives of worship, bible study, witness and stewardship.

The desire to spread the teachings and invitation of our savior is to be the motivating force of our lives as Christians.

When we realize that the word’Kingdom’, does not mean a specific geographical location or a visible political organization, this also could clear or make our picture more valuable.

A better translation would be the word, “RULE,” the Kingdom of GOD is where GOD’s rule is acknowledged and obeyed.

In this sense JESUS offered Himself as the Kingdom of GOD.

Now, to talk a little about the job ahead for the Christian.

But first a break from your spiritual motivator, with a word of motivation to the fellow faithful Christians.

( REMEMBER )

“We may not be tomatoes, but we have been known to Catch-up”. (SMILE)

When a man joins one of the armed services--------EXCUSE ME.

When a person joins one of the armed services of his or her country, United States of America, they are given a service manual called the ( U.C.M.J. ) which means Uniform Code Of Military Justice, in which they must master before getting out of boot-camp.

This book covers a wide range of material, including everything from how to dig a ditch to what to tell your captors if you are taken prisoner.

Obviously, a good soldier must be very familiar with his manual.

Because the Kingdom of GOD has come into the world and because we are involved in the revolution which occurs whenever GOD’s rule is put first, we can think of ourselves as soldiers of GOD, revolution.

While we certainly regard the BIBLE as more than a soldier’s manual, such an off-beat approach to the word of GOD may help us to understand the message and purpose of the scriptures.

As soldiers of the Kingdom we are called to live in obedience to the rule of GOD>

GOD speaks to us through His word, first to proclaim the fact of the revolution, then to lead us to stronger commitment, greater service and more abundant living in His Kingdom.

Many forces influence and control our lives and we may consciously yield our allegiance to some power other than GOD.

Christians, however, believe that GOD in CHRIST has come among us, that He has overthrown the evil powers that controlled life and that HE has established His rule.

The revolution has already begun.

We are called to find the true meaning of freedom by living under GOD’s rule and to serve Him faithfully as He uses us to extend His Kingdom in the world.

COUNTING THE COST….

Let me say this in a worldly quote. (T.N.S.T.A.A.F.L.)

To enquiring minds this means, ( There is no such thing as a free lunch)

While it is difficult to separate personal attitudes and qualities from the way we act, JESUS seems to stress one side or the other of these two aspects that describes some of the traits GOD expects of members of His Kingdom.

Repeatedly JESUS said that the cost of discipleship was complete submission to the will of GOD and absolute loyalty to Him.

Only one master was to control their life, JESUS CHRIST, the word of GOD in the Flesh.

“Whoever is unwilling to carry a cross and follow me cannot be my disciple”. (Luke 14:25-33)

The point of JESUS’ words are crystal clear: every man who would be His disciple must first, count the cost !

Let me put it this way.

I asked GOD to take away my pain.

 GOD said, NO !

It is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked GOD to make my handicapped child whole.

 GOD said, NO !

Their spirit was whole, their body was only temporary.

I asked GOD to grant me patience.

 GOD said, NO !

Patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn’t granted, it is earned.

I asked GOD to give me happiness.

 GOD said, NO !

I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you.

I asked GOD to spare me pain.

 GOD said, NO !

Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked GOD to make my spirit grow.

 GOD said, NO !

You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you grow.

I asked GOD for all things that I might enjoy life.

 GOD said, NO !

I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked GOD to help me love others, as much as He LOVES me.

 GOD said….Ahhhh, finally you have the idea.

 HAVE A POSITIVE DAY !

 ( T.W.A. ) Travel With Angels

 Chaplain Al “Mr. Positive” Kraft

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 FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Make use of your wealth before poverty visits you.

And make use of your life before death overtakes you.

You see….

This is a crazy world indeed, where first things come last and last things come first.

GOD gave us all gifts.

Some of us open our gifts sooner than others.

Who we are is GOD’s gift to us.

What we become is our gift to GOD.

GOD LOVES us for whatever we are.

But GOD LOVE we so much not too keep us the way we are but make us better.

 Have A Positive Goal!

 From A

 Positive Christian

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