

Struck Down But Not Destroyed

2 Corinthians 4:7-10

But my family feels destroyed...

The story:

- Finished
- Hawaii
- Tumor
 - First prayer: Jesus we still trust you
- 30-50% (50-70)
- Everything is worse

We feel destroyed

We have had to tell ourselves, by faith, that we are not destroyed

We have had to remind ourselves of what the Lord has done

- Better husband, father, friend, pastor, Christ follower
- I love my wife more, I love my kids more rightly, I love the Church more, I love Jesus more
- Daisy is a different, more wonderful person
- Many people have gotten saved, prodigals, learned to pray
- **Nothing but good has come from Daisy's first battle with cancer**

This at least partially answers the question: Why does God allow bad things to happen to His people?

So here is how we are looking at it: Even if the worst happens, God is going to work good from it!

How could we think anything else?

- 1. Scripture declares it
- 2. Our experience confirms it
 - Worst and best year of our lives

But it is so painful—it feels like we are destroyed—but we are not

“At times God will appear like an unkind friend, but He is not; He will appear like an unnatural father, but He is not; He will appear like an unjust judge, but He is not.” (Oswald Chambers)¹

Job 13:15

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him.

¹ Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, July 16
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I have a better marriage

- It has always been good
- But Kate and I have known a lot of success
- Success does not bond people together (The Beatles)
- Adversity does

And adversity bears fruit—success does not necessarily

- The scenario...
- Mark 6:51-52

And He got into the boat with them, and the wind stopped; and they were astonished.

For they had not gained any insight from the incident of the loaves, but their heart was hardened.

They learned and worshipped in adversity, but were only dulled/hardened by success

- As a church we have had a lot of success—I am hoping as a pastor here that our adversity brings us nearer to Jesus and more near to each other
- Less about a popular speaker more about Jesus and our subsequent love for one another
- Takes us to a deeper place of commitment because as one suffers we all suffer

For these reasons we have to be able ask along with Job:

- "Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" ~Job 2:10

We have had to remind ourselves that this is not strange:

I Peter 4:12-13

12 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

People die everyday. People lose their kids everyday.

- The world keeps going
- We are struck down and we feel crushed and destroyed—and even at times abandoned—but we are not

When we suffer according to God's will, we need to hold these 3 things in balance:

1. Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

2. Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

3. Revelation 21:3-4

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them,

and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

God never promised us freedom from suffering in **this world**, quite the opposite

- But that day is coming
- And its like Christmas
 - The anticipation just makes it that much sweeter.
 - You look forward to Christmas when there is something you really want... if you have everything, not so much.
 - 1. Jesus Himself
 - 2. No more death, mourning, crying or pain

Laying hold of these 3 truths helps us to move toward the attitude and actions of Job:

Job 1:20-22

20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and **worshiped**.

21 He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. **Blessed be the name of the LORD.**"

22 Through all this Job **did not sin nor did he blame God**.

We still hold God in the place of supremacy... and so does Daisy

"People are only one times important and God is like a thousand million billion googolplex important."²

² Daisy Love Merrick while in the hospital the evening of July 16
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