

"When Bad Things Happen to Good People"

1 Peter 3:13-15

1. Typical Responses

- a. Life is unfair so I am going to give up

Job 2:9b His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

- b. Life isn't fair and not even God can help

1 Peter 3:12a For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous...

Matthew 10:29b Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of the Father.

- c. Life isn't fair – God must be punishing me

Luke 13:2 Jesus answered, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all of the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! ...

- d. Life is unfair, but I have the inside track on God's Power

- e. Life is unfair, so I am going to make it fair

Ecclesiastes 3:11 He has made everything beautiful in its time...

Isaiah 49:8 This is what the Lord says; In the time of my favor I will answer you...

Hebrews 12:7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons...

Hebrews 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 5:8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered...

2. Usually, good things happen to good people

1 Peter 3:13 Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good ?

3. Occasionally, bad things do happen to good people

1 Peter 3:14a But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.

4. What do we do when it does?

a. Amidst all the bad – look for the good

1 Peter 3:14a But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed.

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

b. Be courageous

1 Peter 3:14b Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.

c. Confirm Jesus as your Lord

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.