

As Good As It Gets

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2 Samuel 12:15-25

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1. Is God fair? Do you feel as if He has a personal vendetta against you; that He enjoys making your life miserable?
2. Story of man who lost wife and child – “The hurricane hit us pretty bad. My entire house collapsed on us while we tried to exit, as the water levels rose. The water began to seep through our carefully-placed walls of sandbags, through our doors and windows, and into our home. How this happened, I will never know. We didn't get out. My wife was impaled straight through her back by a fallen water pipe. My daughter was knocked unconscious, and as I tried to save her before her body drifted out of the side of our house through means of the running water, I became entangled by electric wiring. I couldn't reach her, no matter how hard I tried. After the storm subsided, the fire department and many volunteers poked through the wreckage that used to be my neighborhood. I knew that my wife was dead for sure, but I didn't know whether or not my daughter was. I found out soon enough, though. Why? Why did he take my wife, whom I so dearly loved? Why my daughter? She was only six years old! It's just not fair...
3. This is something people have struggled with for years – Psalm 73:16 “So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is!”
4. But apparently not King David – 2 Samuel 12:15-25
5. Note contrast between verse 15 and verse 24.
6. David is the one who sinned, not the child. Why then did the baby suffer and not David?
7. Three things we can learn from David
 - God is not the giver of comfort or happiness. Most people assume that if God truly loved us He would give us all we need to be happy, and we could live with peace and tranquility (He would give us a Rose Garden). Well, He did, once. But we tore down the rose bushes and sacrificed our comfort for what we live with now. The misery in this world is what we humans have chosen.

- Most people figure that this is as good as it gets; that we are stuck with the choice our ancestors made. But see, God has set a plan in motion from the moment we sinned so that we might have another choice. And what He is promising this time is more than any of us can possibly imagine.
 - Most people have taken God and switched roles. They keep God in a box next to the first aid kit. They have forgotten who the creator is and who is the created. God says in Ezekiel 18:4 "All Souls are Mine". Ownership of a person does not belong to another person. Paul says in Romans 9:20 "Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, "Why have you made me like this?"
8. There is a healthy respect for God I see demonstrated in David that is missing in today's society. Most people have forgotten that God is sovereign; that He has supreme authority and power. David knew this. That's why when God made a choice about the baby, David was still able to worship and get on with his life. David understood ownership of a life. And David understood that death is not the end.
 9. This understanding affects our worship, our obedience, and our witness (things that those around David did not know.)