



March 22, 2020

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Why? Whenever something extraordinary (usually bad) happens, we tend to ask “Why?” Just to set your mind at ease, there is nothing biblically wrong with asking this question. Where we tend to get off track is expecting that the answer will be simple, helpful, hopeful, complete, or that an answer will be given at all. Jesus on the cross asked a “why” question. Whether he already knew the full answer, or just needed to ask it, did not change the “what” that he was going through on the cross.

So, asking why our world is going through this pandemic is okay. The answer, however, may not be simple, helpful, hopeful, complete or even forthcoming.

Jesus encountered people who thought they knew why human suffering occurred. In John 9 they thought the “why” of one man’s blindness was his or his parents’ sin. Jesus said they were wrong! The man’s blindness was so God’s work could be displayed in him. In Luke 13 Jesus implied that the commonly held explanations for two well-known disasters were wrong as well. Asking why is not equal to knowing why.

Today we may be asking, why this disruptive, destructive pandemic now, here or ever? Asking is okay, however just understanding the medical science explaining the virus’s transmission doesn’t really bring much satisfaction. We may be tempted to wonder if God is somehow punishing us, or if he’s allowing Satan to test us. Again, our asking is okay, but biblical answers are not so clear. And just like the people in Jesus’ day, we tend to judge and misjudge without the complete truth of the matter.

Here’s a takeaway from the last chapters of the book of Job: most of what I assume I know about most things is only partial. I Corinthians 13 speaks of our partial knowledge now, but of future complete knowledge.

Let’s follow the example of Jesus on the cross when he asked “Why?”: (1) He cited Scripture (Psalm 22:1 “*why have you forsaken me?*”) to express his anguish, which in and of itself demonstrates his trust in God and His Word. He used this same tool at another period of struggle while tested in the wilderness. (2) he continued to trust God... even though no new answer from God was given (or at least it was not recorded for us to read).

Billy

Prayer List:

- **For the health of our nation**, both physically in the face of the virus crisis and spiritually as we seek God's help and healing.
- **For our Health Care workers** – we have many in our church family actively involved in medical care. Let's pray daily for their health, energy and strength as they serve during this time.
- **For the Economic impact** – for individuals and families in our church family whose financial stability and job security has been upended by the crisis.
- **Cathy Hagameier**, a co-worker with Rodney Crownover, is battling advanced cancer.
- **Betty Humphries**, Gary Lowe's mother, has come to stay with Gary and Angie for a time.
- **Bill Loe**, Jan Hastings' dad, is in UAMS.
- **Robert Matheny** is home following a heart cath this week.
- **Sue Matheny** had successful cataract surgery on Thursday.
- **Margaret Organ** is in Alcoa Pines Health & Rehab.
- **Joe Peevy**, a friend of Harold & Mary Stuart, had successful surgery Wednesday to remove cancer.
- **Carol Shelton** received news her biopsy test results were benign.
- **Randy Townsend** is now in Baptist Health Rehab.
- **Sissy Treat** will have extensive tests on Friday at Unity Health in Searcy

Continue

to remember:

Joe Campbell
Charles Caradine
Cash Clancy
Susan Dorsey
Sue Edwards
Don & Patricia Flowers
Kelley Geurin
Glenn & Sylvia Kays
Rod Kirk
Wilma Lunsford
James & Margarete Mayberry
Sharon Pearson
Diana Richard
Catherine Roberts
Bess Sanders
Johnny Scroggins
Micah Sexson
Patsy Steele
Phil Stinnett
Letha Styles
Fred & Edith Swaim
Billie Wilson
Bartha Wise
Syble Womack

Children's Ministry:

Let's Meet Virtually!!

2 year old through 6th grade Bible classes will meet online at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoons. You will be emailed the link to join a ZOOM online video conference call.

We look forward to seeing your kids again. Hug them for us and tell them their church family loves and misses seeing them!

- Stephanie & Kim

Youth Minister Musings:

Good Morning,- I pray that you are all staying well!

Due to current circumstances, we will be postponing all teen events until recommendations by the overseeing authorities change.

To keep in contact and maintain our spiritual connections, we will be using the ZOOM virtual meeting application to conduct class on Wednesday nights at 6:30 and Sunday nights at 5:30.

I will be sending out instructions before each meeting on how to log into ZOOM.

We will also have intermittent meetings throughout the next few weeks just to check in on each other and share our experiences during our social distancing and to pray together.

Remember, This is temporary, it may take some time for things to go back to something that resembles normal, but remember that God is still with us and we should continue to seek his peace in these trying times.

Stay strong y'all!

Reach out to me or Kim any time you need to!

We love you.

-Evan and Kim

We express condolences to Margarete Mayberry on the sudden passing Monday evening of her son-in-law, Vince Loy in Bismarck.

"Thank you for the food you sent us after my foot surgery. It was very much appreciated and needed."

-Margarete and James Mayberry