

I Can't Fix This Trusting in God's Greater Purpose

Jesus

- **Jesus, Lazarus/Two Sisters:** Best of friends...

John 11:1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. 3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." 4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of **God may be glorified through it.**" 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 **So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days** in the place where He was. 11 ... He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." 12 Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." 13 However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. 14 Then Jesus said to them plainly, "**Lazarus is dead.**" 15 And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." ...**17** So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. 19 And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. 20 Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. 21 Now Martha said to Jesus, "**Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died...**"

Q. What do we do when presented with/confronted by/a difficult or painful situation we can't fix? A tragedy that seems so unnecessary, so wrong. When every solution we come up with is immediately met with reason's opposition citing unscalable difficulties and/obvious failure. When we can't fix it...When we can't figure out what good can come from this...When we can't find any purpose in it?

- **Choice to make...**A critical choice that will lead to defeat or victory
 1. Apathetic Chaos influences the universe Truly is no purpose
 2. Loving Living God rules the universe There is a greater purpose

Q. Tragedy will come. What do we do when we just can't fix it?

A. We trust in God's greater purpose/In His **Manifold Grace, Wisdom, and Works**

Manifold OT heb. *rab* Many, great, much. rt. raw-bab, i.e. to become many
Manifold NT gr. *poy-kee'-los* Various colors, variegated

I. Manifold Works of God

God is always working in our lives and working in many ways

Psalm 104:23 Man goes out to his work And to his labor until the evening. 24 O Lord, how **manifold are Your works!**

- Man works a shift then rests. God never stops working

Psalm 121:3 He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you **will not slumber.** 4 Behold, He who keeps Israel Shall neither **slumber nor sleep.**

- God never stops working **for us** to accomplish His purpose **in us**
- Conform us into the image of Christ **through His manifold works**
- He works through His Word/His Spirit/His people/Our enemies. **All things**
- He works in every situation/circumstance in His will/Out of His will
 1. God was working even while Jesus waited
 2. God was working to call Mary/Martha to greater faith
 3. What they could not fix Jesus did but in His time

- God's manifold work is always led by His manifold wisdom

II. Manifold Wisdom of God

Ephesians 3: 10b... now the **manifold wisdom of God** [variegated or many-sided] [is made known...] **11** according to the **eternal purpose** which [God] accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord...

- **Crucifixion:** What did not make sense to man was the wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Newsflash: God is wiser than we are

Isaiah 55:8 My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

We can rest in the fact that God never acts apart from perfect wisdom. God's wisdom is Manifold; Works in many ways [variable colors] within innumerable seemingly trivial situations to bring about His eternal purpose in our lives/His greater plan for His kingdom. [NJC]

- What did not make sense to Mary/Martha was all within God's eternal plan
 1. We were just talking this week now he's gone No sense
 2. Jesus [God] knew he was sick/did not show up No sense
 3. God finally shows up but it's too late No sense

Mary/Martha could not know what **tomorrow held...** but Jesus, displaying His manifold wisdom w/regard to timing/circumstances is bringing them to greater faith/intimacy with the God who **holds tomorrow**. He waits. He allows time for them to decrease in order that He might eventually increase in their lives. [NJC]

- We never know what God has planned for tomorrow.

John 12:2 [Mary/Martha] made [Jesus] a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. [M/M never thought hear brother say pass the salt again]

- Manifold Work/Manifold Wisdom/Manifold Grace

III. Manifold Grace of God

God is always kind and displaying His kindness in many ways

1 Peter 4:10 [Be]... good stewards of the **manifold grace of God**.

Manifold Grace of God: Many varied colors of God's Kindness
Where is God's Kindness in the **"I can't fix this scenario?"**

- Pain is a fact of life in a sinful cursed world
- God's Kindness moves Him to use all our pain our good

It is because God is kind that He does not waste one drop of our pain

Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together **for good** to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**

- **Pain is not for no reason. We are being conformed**

The God of heaven **Experientially** knows our Physical/Emotional suffering

Hebrews 5:7 [Jesus] ...who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.**

The agony of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane proved He struggled with the difficulty of obedience, yet He obeyed perfectly. Jesus asked that the cup be taken away from Him, yet the cup was not taken away. Nevertheless, His prayer was heard because His prayer was not to escape His Father's will, **but to accept it** — and that prayer was definitely heard. [Guzik]

There is no easy way to certain kinds [best kinds] of Spiritual Growth
We must learn to Suffer/Obey through **I can't fix** circumstances

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Some say that we might learn through suffering; but such lessons are only God's second best and God really intends for us to learn only by His word, and it is never His real plan to teach us through trials and suffering. **But Jesus was never in the Father's second best.** [Guzik]

The God of heaven experientially knows our Physical/Emotional suffering
Thus He is able to comfort with perfect color of **Manifold Grace** He knows we need

- Going through an "I can't fix this" situation? **If not you will...**

2 Timothy 1:9 [God]... saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to **His own purpose** and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began...

God establishes purpose into every circumstance. His will or not.
Things will go wrong. Some things are wrong...God uses what was meant for evil for good

Apart from faith in God's Bigness, in God's Goodness and faith in God's Greater Purpose working in conjunction with all circumstances/situations in/out of our control...we will fall into despair/confusion. Resting in God's manifold **works, wisdom and grace** will lead to victory and wholeness in our lives while we wait for Jesus to make all things new. [NJC]

Q. What do we do when we can't fix it...can't find the purpose?

A. We trust in God/His greater purpose/In His **Manifold Grace, Wisdom, and Works**