

Jesus Never Said That, Pt. 3
“Everything Happens for a Reason”
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God is able to redeem whatever happens.

1. Why Believing that Everything Happens for a Reason is Dangerous

Danger 1: It Misrepresents the Character of God

The great danger of this phrase is that it subtly makes God the author of evil.

Habakkuk 1:13a NIV *“Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.”*

James 1:17 NIV *“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”*

Matthew 7:11 NIV *“If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him.”*

John 10:10 NIV *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”*

Truth: God is powerful enough to redeem evil without being its author.

Danger 2: It Can Minimize Real Pain

Romans 12:15 NIV *“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.”*

John 11:33-35 NIV *“When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. Where have you laid him? He asked. ‘Come and see Lord,’ they replied. Jesus wept.”*

Biblical compassion doesn’t rush to explain suffering; it enters grief with people and makes room for God to comfort, heal, and redeem the hurting hearts.

Danger 3: It Can Keep Us from Responding the Way God Calls Us To

Micah 6:8 NIV *“...to act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”*

2. What Does the Bible Actually Say

Truth 1: We Live in a Broken World

The Bible doesn't teach that every tragedy is designed by God; it teaches that sin fractured the created order with disease, death, disaster, and brokenness

Stop asking, "Why would God do this?" Instead, ask, "How can I trust God in a broken world?"

Our hope isn't that life will always make sense. Our hope is that Jesus has overcome the world.

Truth 2: God is Never the Author of Evil

1 John 1:5 NIV *"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you; God is light; in him there is no darkness at all."*

Don't blame God's character for what sin has done... Instead, trust the God who rescues, redeems, heals, restores, and sets people free

Truth 3: God's Presence is Greater than any Explanation

Psalms 23:4 NIV *"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."*

Psalms 34:18 NIV *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those crushed in spirit."*

Matthew 20:20b NIV *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

When life doesn't make sense, don't spend your time looking for answers; make room for His presence.

Truth 4: God Can Redeem What He Didn't Cause

Isaiah 61:1-3 NIV *"The Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion, to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor."*

Romans 8:28 NIV *"In all things God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to his purpose."*

Truth 5: Jesus Will Make Everything New

Romans 8:18 NIV *"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."*

Revelation 21:4-5 NIV *"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or mourning, or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.' He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new.' Then he said, 'Write this down for these words are trustworthy and true.'"*

Choose to live with an eternal perspective; don't let today's delay or suffering restrict the hope of tomorrow.

Closing Challenge:

If you are ever tempted to think "everything happens for a reason", replace it with biblical truth:

- We live in a broken world—but Jesus has overcome the world.
- God is not the author of evil—He is the giver of every good gift.
- God may not explain everything, but He promises His presence.
- God can redeem what He did not cause.
- One day Jesus will make all things new.

Remember: Not that everything happens for a reason (Jesus never said that), but that God is able to redeem whatever happens.