



December 9, 2021

Speaker: Clyde Glass

When Followers of Jesus Missed the Mark Pt. 2: When Difficulties Come

Text: Job 16:1-5; Habakkuk 1:2; Malachi 3:15; Jeremiah 12:1; & 2 Cor. 1:3-4

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss as a group or family Clyde's explanation of "distinguishing between what theologians refer to as "God's Ordained Will" and "God's Permissive Will". Most of what we experience in life falls under God's Permissive Will. It's stuff that happens in life (good and bad) that flows from our choices in life, that God allows us to make. God doesn't "make" it happen, it's just the consequences (again, good or bad) that flow from our choices individually and collectively as humans. So, for example, when someone gets in a car crash, they might think "God made that happen", when actually it simply happened because we ran a red light."
(Read Job 16:1-5, Habakkuk 1:2, Malachi 3:15, Jeremiah 12:1-2)

2. Clyde's point regarding God's response to Job's questions in Job 38, that sometimes in life "the answer ultimately is mystery, that life happens. Also, in this life, suffering happens to the just and unjust. I am not punishing you Job, this was not some teaching, or some correction to some area of your life. God's answer is "I am God, and you are mine". How does that explanation make you feel? Does this challenge, stir you to trust God more, or does it just frustrate you? Discuss as a group or family.

3. In what ways may God be challenging you to "just sit with people and just listen"? Not try and give answers, but just space to cry. (Please read 2 Cor. 1:3-4, Job 2:11-13).

4. How may God be prompting you to "Hit the mark by suffering with others" in times of hardship or struggle?
