

When God Says Hard Things

When thinking about what God is doing in our lives we must spend time considering God's purpose. We must spend enough time thinking about His purpose that we embrace that purpose as our own. His purpose is to reveal to His loved ones His glory.

Scripture(s): Romans 11:7-12

Remember this - God's foremost purpose in His interaction with creation is to lead us to know and adore Him as the supreme good of our life.

I. The first hard saying of God that reveals that God's purpose goes beyond our temporary comfort is He _____ speak to everyone always to save them. It is those who hear God's truth as a greater authority than themselves who are open enough to _____ the call of salvation. Isaiah 29:10, 13; Deuteronomy 29:4

Matthew 13:13-17 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ' YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; 15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.' 16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

II. The second hard saying of God that reveals that God's purpose goes beyond our temporary comfort is He lets our _____ be a trap for us. It is when God becomes more important than blessing that we truly live for His _____. (Psalm 69:22-23)

Psalms 69:21 They also gave me gall for my food And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Matthew 13:45-46 ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

III. The third hard saying of God that reveals that God's purpose goes beyond our temporary comfort is God uses one person's _____ to bring an even more lost person to Himself. God is as much revealing His wonder to us through humanity's _____ of Jesus as through our _____ of Jesus.

Romans 9:21-24 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? 23 And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

Our challenge: Understand the ups and downs of life as a window to understand the profound _____ (fullness) of God.

1. How do you hear God's Word, as THE _____ for your life or just AN _____ in your life?

2. Does your happiness lead you to strive more toward God or _____ ?

3. Are you looking to see what God reveals of Himself through His _____ sayings and actions?

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