

How Does God Treat His Friends Part 3

Job 2:1-10

Here's a brief recap on some key material. You could simply talk this through or draw it out through discussion.

We have sought to establish that God is wonderfully, gloriously and sovereignly in charge of all things, even suffering and evil. We want to say too that God is not merely passive, allowing events to unfold, but rather He is the decisive and final cause, He wills, directs and orders all things.

But why? Why would He will that bad things, even evil things, happen? The simple yet deeply profound answer is: *for the display of His glory.*

From beginning to end in the Bible we are told that all things work together so that God's greatness, His worth, His value, literally His weight, are seen.

Probably no text in the Bible reveals the passion of God for His own glory more clearly and bluntly as Isaiah 48:9-11 where God says:

For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, ... For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.

These words come like six hammer blows to a man-centred way of looking at the world. What this text drives home to us is the centrality of God and the fact that God's ultimate goal is to uphold and display the glory of His name. All God does, all He allows is for the display of His glory.

- **God Chooses us for His Glory** *Ephesians 1:4-6, 12,14*
- **God has created us for His glory** *Isaiah 43:6-7*
- **God rescued Israel from Egypt for His glory** *Psalms 106:7-8*
- **God defeated Pharaoh at the Red Sea to show His glory** *Exodus 14:4,17f*
- **God gave victory in Canaan to make a name for Himself, i.e. for His glory** *2 Samuel 7:23*
- **God restored Israel from exile for His glory** *Ezekiel 36:22-23*
- **Jesus sought the glory of His Father** *John 7:18*
- **Jesus said we should do good works so that God would get the glory** *Matthew 5:16*
- **Jesus says that He answers prayer in order that God is glorified** *John 14:13*
- **Jesus endured suffering for the glory of God** *John 17:1*
- **The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Son of God** *John 16:14*
- **God forgives our sins for His name's sake** *Isaiah 43:25*
- **Jesus' ultimate aim is that we see and enjoy His glory** *John 17:24*
- **God's plan is to fill the earth with the knowledge of His glory** *Habakkuk 2:14*
- **In the New Jerusalem the glory of God replaces the sun** *Revelation 21:23*

Here's the point: God is obsessed with us seeing His amazing splendour, His greatness... He wants the universe to see His glory. *Everything* He does and all that He allows is for the purpose of displaying His glory.

Why is this? A) It's fitting. We know instinctively that wonderful things need to be seen.
 B) It's an act of love. Our greatest need is to see God's greatness and supreme worth.

What's the big issue with Satan's accusation in Job 1 and 2? [Satan's accusation is that Job only loves and trusts God because of the blessings he receives.]

How does allowing Job to suffer, under God's loving supervision, display God's glory? Where do we see that in chapter 1 and 2? [Job maintains that God is good and can be trusted in his response to his sufferings, 1:21,22 and 2:10.]

How is God glorified (made much of, illuminated, seen) when a person is satisfied in Him? Talk through some scenarios whereby a person might not glorify God in their life (disobedience, grumbling, a reliance on other things) and show how in this way God is not seen to be terribly great. Reverse this and talk through how God is seen when we delight in Him, and all He is for us, despite our circumstances?

What are some of the props that the Lord might want to take away (or move slightly or put at risk) in order to show us that our *real* confidence is in the completed work of Christ?

You might want to reflect on 2 Corinthians 12:7. Why has God allowed this "messenger of Satan"? [to prevent pride.] What is God seeking to do in Paul/show him?

"When Jesus is all we have we realise Jesus is all we need"

Remind one another what we have in Christ all of which is by grace through faith.

Pray that you might know that more and more.

God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him

John Piper