

Covid-19 And the Goodness of God

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Isaiah 55:8-9

Sermon Summary

The Covid-19 virus is a melt-down for the human race. It makes us (the population of the planet) feel that we have no control over this pestilence. Too many folk feel they have complete control of their lives, and thereby, decide they have no use for God. No one has **full** control over their lives; only God has that attribute.

Yet, when those who claim they have no use for a god because if God were in complete control, and was merciful and loving, then He would never allow such happenings as a destroying pestilence to frighten us. Some will claim that God has a dark side, that He doesn't care.

Andrew's emphatic reply, "No way!" God has **everything** in control. **God is good all the time**. And for that reason, no matter the circumstances, at times like these, the first thing we should do is turn to **Psalms 107:1**, "Give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His love endures forever." Read it aloud; then add one's personal prayers of gratitude. God has no dark side. God always has your best interests at heart. How do we understand this if we are afraid of getting the virus and dying?

1. **Try to be realistic.** We are humans, and we simply do not understand everything about God. He makes this very plain in **Isaiah 55:8-9**, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." God understands everything. He does things in his **own** way and time. Many changes happen in life that we simply don't like, and sometimes are quite scary as we approach that change. For example: changing cities, or even countries, can be extremely testing, especially for children.
2. **Trust God for your personal growth** as you face and challenge the storms of life, since, frequently, your life becomes even better after the test has passed. Read aloud **James 1:2-4**, "Consider it pure joy, my friends, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." Our struggles are not because of God's perceived meanness. It should be our endeavor to embrace tragedy for personal growth.
3. **See the greater good.** Joseph, his father Israel's favourite son, was sold into slavery at the age of 17. He had a traumatic life of ups and downs, being falsely accused of a crime he did not commit and tossed into an Egyptian prison for a few years, but he did not blame God throughout his incarceration. It was 13 years before he saw his brothers again. He never returned to his home land; he died in Egypt. **Genesis 45:5**, speaking to his brothers, Joseph says, "And now, do not be distressed and do not be

angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.” And **Genesis 50:20**, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

4. **Look for the good news.** Covid-19 is showing very plainly that humans are **not** in control. Hard times are frequently the only times we turn to God. Doing and/or being good throughout life does not make us right before God. Only by trusting in Jesus can we get to God. Jesus is above suffering and death. It is never too late to ask of Jesus for help even if that happened as you approach death. God will often use suffering to draw himself closer to you. God uses the evil and pandemics of the world to work on you to make you a better person, a better Christian. And God can bless you in the way you handle suffering and help others.

Thoughts for Meditation

1. What are some of the things you can – and cannot – control in this life?
2. Can you remember times in your past that disappointed you, yet on reflection you can see how that disappointment matured you?
3. Take time to praise God and thank him for the blessings you are receiving right now.
4. Read Genesis chapter 41; find and enjoy the turning point in Joseph’s life. Ask yourself, why did I enjoy that moment?