



What Can God do with Tragedy?

June 5, 2011

Isaiah 61:1-7

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁵ Strangers shall stand and tend your flocks;
foreigners shall be your plowmen and vinedressers;
⁶ but you shall be called the priests of the LORD;
they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God;
you shall eat the wealth of the nations,
and in their glory you shall boast.
⁷ Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion;
instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot;
therefore in their land they shall possess a double portion;
they shall have everlasting joy.

Discussion Questions

When have you seen good come out of bad?
How long did it take you to recognize the good?

How do you understand the promises that God made to His people in the Old Testament?
What do they say about God?

What comes to mind when you read verses 1-3?
Is that how God deals with us now?
Is that what Jesus is saying in Luke 4:17-21?

In what way are those verses fulfilled now?
Does God return beauty for ashes?
How?
Can you think of other verses in the Bible which reaffirm this?

Does this mean that things will ALWAYS go well for those who love God?
Why?
What comfort and joy can we find in this passage?