

WHY ME?

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing...*

Ephesians 1:3

Most of us see nothing strange when someone in the midst of great suffering looks up to heaven and groans, "My God, my God, why me?" Whether we are talking about disease, natural disasters, accidents or random violence we have all struggled with the question, *Why do bad things happen to good people?* Although such a question is important, I want to encourage you this morning to consider a second question. First, consider all the ways God has blessed you (salvation, health, family, finances, education, friendships, etc.). Then look up to heaven and ask, "My God, my God, why me?" In the light of my selfishness and sin, *Why do good things happen to bad people?*

Let me suggest that the second question is just as baffling as the first. Maybe more! Why indeed would a holy God pour such lavish blessings on sinners like us? Fortunately, the Bible answers this question. God wants us to know the reasons for his goodness. His blessings do not come because he likes us better than other people or because he happens to have a day on which he is feeling particularly generous. No, he blesses us:

1. **TO HUMBLE US.** What arrogance it is to think that our blessings in life are the result of our work and talents (Deuteronomy 8:17-18). No! There is nothing good in our life that is not the result of God's outlandish grace manifested toward sinners. Where then is pride? God's gifts are intended to make us humbly grateful. *What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it? (1 Corinthians 4:7)*
2. **TO LEAD US TO REPENTANCE.** The miraculous catch of fish caused Peter to fall on his knees and say to Jesus, *Depart from me, for I am a sinful man* (Luke 5:8). The unmerited goodness of God broke his heart. Why me, Lord? *Do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? (Romans 2:4)*
3. **TO ENABLE US TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS.** God does not bless us just because he likes us and wants us to be happy. No, he has something much bigger in mind. He blesses us so that we, like a channel, can be a source of blessing to others. *Now the Lord said to Abraham, "...I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you... so that you will be a blessing." (Genesis 12:1-2)*

Before the service begins today, pause a moment and count your blessings. When you have finished (!), then look up to heaven and humbly ask, "Lord, *whyme? Why me?*"

Now... I think you are ready for worship!

Pastor Stan