

“WHY ISN’T LIFE FAIR?”
QUESTIONS I’D LIKE TO ASK GOD-- 2
January 21, 2018

Ecclesiastes 4: 1 *“I looked again at all the injustice that goes on in this world.”*

THE REALITY: LIFE IS UNFAIR!

- **Criminals go unpunished.**
“Why do people commit crimes? Because crime is not punished quickly enough.” (8: 11)
- **The oppressed go unhelped.**
“Then I looked again at all the injustice that goes on in this world. The oppressed were crying and no one would help them...their oppressors had power on their side.” (4:1)
- **Politicians are often unethical.**
“If you see...miscarriage of justice anywhere throughout the land, don’t be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up, and the higher officials look up to their superiors. And so the matter is lost in red tape and bureaucracy.” (5: 8 LB)
- **Good people go unrewarded.**
“In this life, good people are often treated as if they were wicked, and wicked people are often treated as though they were good. This is so meaningless!” (8:14)
- **Capable people are unsuccessful.**
“In this world, fast runners do not always win the race, wise people don’t always earn a living, intelligent folks don’t always get rich, and capable people don’t always rise to high positions.” (9:11)

THE REASON: WHY DOES GOD LET IT HAPPEN?

- **Because God gives us the freedom to CHOOSE.**
“(God) I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse.” (Deut.11: 26)
- **Because ACCOUNTABILITY is coming.**
“In due season God will judge everything a man does, both good and bad.”(3: 17)
- **To show us we need a SAVIOR.**
*“There is no one on earth who does what is right all the time and never sins.”(7:20)
“God is letting the world go on its sinful way, so He can test mankind and so that men will see that they are no better than beasts.” (3:1`8)*
- **Because suffering can develop CHARACTER**
“...suffering produces character..” (Romans 5: 4)

MY RESPONSE: HOW SHOULD I REACT?

- **ACCEPT that life is unfair.**
“In the world you will have trouble.” (John 16:33)
- **DO the right thing anyway!**
“Learn to do good, seek justice, help those who are oppressed.”(Isa. 1:17)
- **WAIT for God’s reward.**
“These temporary troubles are winning for us a permanent reward out of all proportion to our pain.” (2 Cor. 5: 17)

Bible Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:16- 4:1; 8: 11-14

¹⁶ Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness.

¹⁷ I said in my heart, God will judge the righteous and the wicked, for there is a time for every matter and for every work.

¹⁸ I said in my heart with regard to the children of man that God is testing them that they may see that they themselves are but beasts.

¹⁹ For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity.

²⁰ All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.

²¹ Who knows whether the spirit of man goes upward and the spirit of the beast goes down into the earth?

²² So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

4 Again I saw all the oppressions that are done under the sun. And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them.

Ecclesiastes 8: 11-14

¹¹ Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed speedily, the heart of the children of man is fully set to do evil.

¹² Though a sinner does evil a hundred times and prolongs his life, yet I know that it will be well with those who fear God, because they fear before him.

¹³ But it will not be well with the wicked, neither will he prolong his days like a shadow, because he does not fear before God.

¹⁴ There is a vanity that takes place on earth, that there are righteous people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the wicked, and there are wicked people to whom it happens according to the deeds of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity.