

GOD WORKS THROUGH PROBLEMS

Family Devotion – Lesson 23

MEMORY VERSE—GALATIANS 6:7

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

- It is important to know that your actions (sowing) have consequences (reaping). If you think God will let you get away with sin, it is like you are teasing (mocking) God. A person who thinks this has been deceived.
- As Christians we can still get ourselves into problems. The good news is that God can work through poor decisions and sinful actions. How does God do it? He does it through chastening:
 - When He chastens us we know we are loved by God (Heb. 12:7).
 - After He chastens us it makes us shape up into holiness (Heb. 12:10).
 - After we shape us we can then be fruitful (Heb. 12:11).
- Romans 8:28 tells us *“all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* It doesn’t matter how big a problem it is, God can still make something good come out of it.
 - He can use a problem to get us to pray more.
 - He can use a problem to get us to trust Him more.
 - He can use a problem to make us more like Jesus.
 - He can use a problem to teach us how to comfort others when they go through a problem.
- Remember, problems are just a result of a sin-cursed world. Some of your problems may be a result of someone else’s sinful behavior. When this happens, it is important to remember to forgive and to grow closer to Jesus. Problems are just creative ways to get to know Jesus closer.
- *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;”* (Phil. 3:10).

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

- What is the first thing that usually goes through your mind when you face a problem?
- How does knowing that God can teach you something in a problem help your attitude?
- What is one thing you should always do before you make an important decision?

PRAYER TIME

- Ask God to help you grow closer to Him through your problems.
- Ask God to help you not get bitter or discouraged when He chastens you.

CHALLENGE

- The next time you face a big problem, spend extra time in prayer to seek God’s direction and insight.