

## **"Work together for your own good"**

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## **"What did I do wrong to deserve this?"**

- Often when bad things happen to us we feel that we must have sinned or done something wrong to deserve it
  - We can by our own choices bring woe and misery upon us
    - This is not the topic of this discussion
- But is everything "bad" a result of sin or choices we make?
  - No – that is simply not so
  - Things will happen that are not related to any sin of ours
    - Things completely out of our control
- It is clear from the following examples all that is "bad" that happens to us is not a result of sin on our part

### ***Example – 1: The Savior***

- [Matt 27:27-31](#)

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.  
And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.  
And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!  
And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him"

**Example – 2: The blind man**

- [John 9:1-3](#)

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, *who did sin*, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, *Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*"

**Example – 3: Joseph Smith**

- He was among other things:
  - tar'd and feathered
  - Cast into prison many times
  - Betrayed by his friends

**Example – 4: Jacob (Nephi's younger brother)**

- 2 Nephi 2:1-2

"And now, Jacob, I speak unto you: Thou art my first-born in the days of my tribulation in the wilderness. And behold, in thy childhood *thou hast suffered afflictions and much sorrow, because of the rudeness of thy brethren.*"

**"All things shall work together for thy good"**

- Therefore we can and should expect that there will be things in our life that are not a result of sin or our choices and even in spite of our prayers otherwise
  - Tragedy
  - Loved ones who stray
  - Financial setbacks
- The question then becomes:
  - *"How can or should I then "deal" with these things and why even might they happen to me?"*

- D&C 90:24  
"Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and *all things shall work together for your good*, if ye walk uprightly and remember the covenant wherewith ye have covenanted one with another"  
  - The story of the current bush:

## **Revisit the examples & Learn from them**

- How did "all things work together for thy good" for the examples looked at earlier?
- What can we learn from these examples? How can we apply it to ourselves?

### **Example – 1: The Savior**

- Hebrews 5:8  
"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"  
  - *We too can learn from the things which we suffer*

### **Example – 2: The blind man**

- John 9:6-7  
"When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."  
  - *We may be healed in such a way that metaphorically speaking we can "see" where we couldn't before*

### **Example – 3: Joseph Smith**

- D&C 121:7-8  
"My son, peace be unto thy soul; thine adversity and thine afflictions shall be but a small moment;  
And then, if thou endure it well, God shall exalt thee on high"  
  - *We too can find peace amid our afflictions*

### **Example – 4: Jacob (Nephi's younger brother)**

- 2 Nephi 2:2  
"Nevertheless, Jacob, my first-born in the wilderness, thou knowest

the greatness of God; and he shall consecrate thine afflictions for thy gain"

- We can see that this did indeed happen
  - He saw his Redeemer (2 Nephi 11:3)
  - 2 Nephi 9
    - Taught clearly and beautifully about Christ the Redeemer and the need for an infinite atonement
- *Our afflictions may be consecrated for our gain and we grow and change from them*

## **What can we do so that "all things will work together for our good?"**

- D&C 90:23  
"Search diligently, pray always, and be believing, and *all things shall work together for your good*, if ye walk uprightly and remember the covenant wherewith ye have covenanted one with another"
- Note that it does not say "All things shall work out the way I want them to" or "the way I think they should"
  - Recognize that just because we do "what is right" doesn't mean that our vision or desires are what is best for us
    - Accept that God is the gardener in our lives
    - We will be blessed for living righteous lives but... accept God's timing and will in everything
- Act in faith and not out of our fears
- How do we "endure it well"
  - Keep our covenants day by day
- Be grateful

## ***How does it work?***

- Through the *Atonement*
  - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John 3:16)
  - Find Peace (John 14:27, Matt 11:28-29)
  - Receive hope (2 Thess 2:16, 1 Peter 1:3)
  - Exchange "*Beauty for Ashes*" (Isaiah 61:1-3, Alma 7:11-13)
  - Consecrate our afflictions for our good (D&C 122:7)

- His grace is sufficient (D&C 17:8, Ether 12:26)