

Every Day With Jesus  
God's Providential Care  
Genesis 34-44

A question that is often asked in our culture is, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" There are worldview assumptions about the nature of people and the nature of evil inherent in that question. It assumes an innate goodness in people. It assumes that good and bad should be based on deserving or undeserving. For instance, it implies that it would be ok for bad things to happen to bad people. But who gets to define bad and by what standard?

1. God's providence oversees the affairs of evil men.
2. God's providence spans centuries of human activity.
3. God's providence offers grace to penitent hearts.

The stories of the patriarchs in Genesis remind us of the grace of God, His sovereignty over creation, and His providential care over those who are destined to inherit His promise. The men and women who played various roles in this important drama throughout the generations weren't perfect. Some of them were deliberately disobedient. Yet, the Lord used them to accomplish His purposes. It doesn't mean that God approved of their sins. It means that God has purposefully chosen to use the weak things of this world to accomplish His redemptive purposes for us. It means that God in his mercy and grace can still use us for His glory and the glory of His kingdom...if we will be Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him. May that be said of us today.

Reflection

Take some time to look back at your life and identify ways that God providentially cared for you, in your mistakes, in your sin, and in your obedience. Remember how hard it was to see His providence at work while you were in the midst of a crisis, but how easy it is to see His providential care in hindsight. Take some time to commit some of these events to paper and to memory so that they become a part of your story as you share the goodness of God and His gospel with others. If you are still wondering about God's providential care for you because you are still in the midst of grief, loss, uncertainty, or hardship, take some time to ask God to help you trust that in the end, He will be glorified (and maybe even vindicated) for His care for you.