The Gospel 14 Dec 2025

Study

11th September 2001 is etched in everybody's memory. One question to emerge was, 'Why does God let bad things happen to good people?'

1. Is it a good question to ask? Discuss
2. According to these Scripture, how many of us are 'good people?
    a) Murder. Matthew 5:21. 1 John 3:15
    b) Adultery. Matthew 5:27-28
    c) Genesis 6:5-6
    d) Jeremiah 17:9
3. How does God's Old Testament law and the doctrine of depravity of humanity help to lead us towards salvation? See Romans 3:20

The New Testament uses the term 'good news' or 'gospel'. In Greek it is 'Euangelion. The Roman General making a grand announcement to a gathered crowd in the arena. The New Testament chooses to use this phrase, loaded with imperialism though it is, to describe the good news of Jesus.

1. Some like to think we best communicate the gospel without words. Can this be adequate. See the following passages
    a) Romans 1:16-17
    b) 1 Peter 3:15
2. Discuss why words alone are also utterly inadequate.
3. The Gospel must be articulated. But what is the message? What truth do we communicate?

Does this illustration help simplify the key concepts?

- **God. Perfect, loving, wants us to know Him and live in his presence.**
- **Us. Created by God, to live as his children, dearly loved but separated from him by our rebellion.**
- God's rescue plan – Jesus. The atoning sacrifice. The bridge.

4. See 2 Corinthians 11:3-4. Discuss why the 'gospel' might tend to change under social pressure. Could it have anything to do with our 'September 11th' type questions?
5. Discuss, what is the most difficult aspect of sharing the gospel message with another person?
6. Look at these passages and discuss what key truths must ideally be communicated when presenting the gospel to another person?
    a) Romans 5:8
    b) 2 Corinthians 5:21
    c) 1 John 1:9
    d) Romans 10:9-10
7. Practice speaking the gospel to another person right now. See how well it flows. How confident do you feel? When an opportunity presents itself, maybe you will be ready to share some parts or maybe all of the gospel message, depending on the situation.

Communion

1. Is it ok for anybody to take communion at any time? Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 and discuss.
2. Maybe celebrate the Lord's supper together as a group?