

3-7-21

F.A.Q.

How can a loving God allow so much suffering?

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John 11:1-3 (NIV): Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."

John 11:4 (NIV): When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

John 9:1-3 (NIV): As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Answer #1: Suffering reveals God's power

John 11:5-6 (NIV): Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

Romans 5:3-4 (NIV): ...suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

Answer #2: Suffering matures our faith

John 11:21-22 (NIV): "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

John 11:23-24 (NIV): Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

John 11:25-26 (NIV): Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Answer #3 Suffering redefines our life

John 11:25-26 (NIV): When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

John 11:33-34 (NIV): When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.

John 11:35 (NIV): Jesus Wept.

Answer #4: Suffering leads to Jesus