



Touching Lives
with James Merritt



SERMON SINGLES

Breaking Good

Romans 8:28-29

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

If you are like me, you have had moments in your life when you can't help but ask, "God, where are you?" Even worse, is when you find yourself asking, "God, what good are you?" or "God, are you really good?" After all, we think "If you are a good God and I'm trying to be a good person, why do these bad things happen to me?" Then to make things worse, a pastor like me steps up to a platform and looks at people like you and says, "Don't worry. Things that are breaking bad will eventually be breaking good." My late dad used to say to me all the time, "Son, I've learned it all works out for the good in the end." Honestly, that sounds cold, calloused, and even somewhat condescending when it is actually meant to be comforting. But what if it is true? What if things that are breaking bad will ultimately break good? That's what we're going to look at in today's message as dive into Romans 8:28-29.

KEY POINTS

1. I Can Believe God's Promise To Me

The promise in today's key passage is so strong and so specific, it is made plain that God works all things out together for good - not most things, not the majority of things, not a lot of things, but all things. God does not work all things out for our good most of the time. He doesn't work most things out for our good some of the time. He works all things out together for our good all of the time.

You may not be seeing how that is happening today. Spoiler alert - you may not see how that is going to happen tomorrow. The promise is unequivocal. Since God keeps His promises, we can know that ultimately God will work all things out together for our good.

2. I Should Receive God's Plan For Me

There is an old saying, "The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry." It simply means that no matter how carefully a project is laid out, something can still go wrong. That is not true of God's plan. Nothing can ever go wrong with God's plan and let me tell you why.

Breaking Good

Romans 8:28-29

Behind the plan of God is the providence of God. Things don't work out coincidentally, or accidentally, but providentially. The word "providence" comes from two words: the word "pro" meaning "before" and the word "video" meaning "to see." Providence simply means to "see before." If you listen carefully, you can hear the word "provide" in the word "providence." The promise of God simply means that God sees every event that is ever going to happen to me before it happens and has already provided for that event to fit into His plan for my life so it will ultimately be for my good.

3. I Will Achieve God's Purpose In Me

There is a divine purpose to everything, and everything has a divine purpose. What is the ultimate, final, greatest purpose that God has with everything that happens to us? We are going to cover that in the next verse. "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son..." (Romans 8:29).

God's purpose for you in the final analysis is not to make you healthy, wealthy, happy, rich, or famous. God's purpose for you is to make you become just like Jesus. If there is no one greater than Jesus, then there is nothing better than to become like Jesus. It is not your definition of good that God promises; it is God's definition of good.

NOTES

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What has happened in your life that has caused you to question God's goodness?
2. When was a time when God's plan for you worked out better than your own plans? What did you learn from that experience?
3. How can you identify God's purpose for you in the middle of the tough circumstances you're facing right now?
