

When You Don't Know Why

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Introduction:

- Wife and I (Sean Moore) married 1 year and almost 9 months
- We're past the infamous "first year" of marriage
- It was an eventful first year
- Some events during our first year of marriage (that didn't happen to us)
 - My grandmother passed away
 - My great-grandmother passed away
 - My parents' dog passed away
 - Sarah's parents' two dogs passed away
- Some things that did
 - Sarah had appendicitis about a month into marriage
 - Didn't know what to do
 - Hospital
 - A number of months later I had chest pains
 - MedExpress, then referred to go to the hospital
 - Nothing wrong, could be stress related
- The most difficult parts of our first year of marriage
 - 5 months into marriage, we discovered we were pregnant
 - Easter comes around, over at my parents' house, Sarah gets some pains
 - Overnight/early morning there's a miscarriage
 - I wake up to hearing Sarah in pain, screaming for me from the bathroom
 - We drive to the hospital where they tell us we have miscarried
 - Months later, we discovered we were pregnant again
 - 6-8 weeks into the pregnancy at a 4th of July party, Sarah has pains again
 - Overnight/early morning another miscarriage

I think most, if not all of us have had situations like this where painful life experiences produce questions that intensely demand answers.

- How did this happen?
- Why did this happen?
- Where was God?

The question we are looking at is:
"How Do You Respond When You Don't Know Why?"

I remember after the first miscarriage being at home that evening looking for answers because I felt completely unprepared.

- I had no Bible verses that brought me comfort.
- I could think of no messages that spoke to this situation.

Normally, Sarah and I pray together before we go to sleep, but that night, I had no desire to talk to God. Sarah prayed but I didn't.

I can remember in the days that followed saying to God, "Honestly, I don't trust You right now."

We think the "why" question is the most important issue.

What is the bigger issue?

What was the devil trying to get Job to do?

Job 1:11 ESV – ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, *and he will curse you to your face.*"

This is the storm within the storm:
How do you respond when you don't know why?
How do you respond when you don't understand?

Matthew 11:2-6 ESV – ² Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴ And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

This isn't just something that comes up in times of tragedy or loss. This can come up in times when you're reading the Bible.

What was happening?

- Certainly, I was in a state of grief and sorrow (the storm)
- However, there was a storm within that storm that said:
 - God let you down.
 - You prayed over this child almost every night.
 - But God didn't come through.

John 6:66-69 ESV – ³ So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

⁶⁶ After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷ So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" ⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered

him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Let's settle this:

- God is good.
- God cares.
- God is active.

Romans 8:32 ESV – ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

John 10:10 ESV – ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NLT – ³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

“I don't know why, but I know that it isn't...”

-because God doesn't love me.

-because it isn't God's will to heal all.