

Your Experiences and Your Destiny

Luke 22:21-24

Introduction

God uses our experiences to help direct our destiny. There are various types of experiences that fall into three categories – the good, the bad and the bitter.

The positive things that have happened in our lives are the good things. These are things that have occurred that have benefited us and can also be beneficial to others. Just like God used Paul's previous experiences, training, and education in the writing of the New Testament books, God can take the good from your background, choices, or personal life experiences to accomplish His work in history.

Sometimes God uses the bad choices we make in our lives to steer us toward our destiny in Him. Peter, denied the Lord three times. Later he was ashamed of His actions and his public rejection of Christ. But once Peter repented, God used Peter's bad decision to develop him spiritually and make him useful for ministry.

Then there are the bitter things in life. These are negative situations you've gone through that are not your fault. Bitter experiences are beyond your control or weren't directly caused by you. However, if you will allow God to use these experiences, He can take the bitter to direct you toward your unique purpose.

Out of the good, the bad and the bitter, God can create a vision or passion that will lead you toward your destiny.

Good choices God can use. Even with your bad choices, God can allow you to grow from them so that you can help others not to make the same mistakes. Bitter experiences take you to a place where normally you would not have gone. That place is where God can use you.

Getting Started

1. Which of the Bible people Dr. Evans mentioned do you identify with most closely? Why?
2. What things have happened in your life that could create a passion and a vision for God using you to be a benefit to others?

Let's Get Personal

1. Dr. Evans defines good things as positive events or things in your life that benefited you and the purposes of God. What would be an example of two good things from your life?
2. What bad things in your life have you grown from and that have even possibly been a way for you to help guide others?
3. What about the bitter? What bitter experiences have you had that have put you in a place where God can use you?

Take the Next Step

1. When you think "bitter" experiences, it can be difficult to keep bouncing back from unfair and even humiliating setbacks. What do you think can keep you going on a day-to-day basis when things are most bitter?
2. For further reading on the "good," check out Philippians 3:1-11. For additional reading on the bad, read Luke 22:31-34 with John 21:1-23. To read more about the "bitter," look up Genesis 50:19-21.

Renew Your Mind

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28