**It Could Have Been Worse**

Do you ever notice that when trials and troubles come our way, the very first thing we think is: “Why me”?

It is a very natural question to ask, especially, when things have always gone well for you. In fact, it is also a natural question to ask, when things are **NOT** going well for you. As in, why, with everything else going on, did this have to happen to me (or to someone I loved) right now. Or, I have been a good person, why is this happening to me?

Well, don’t despair. It could have been worse. Now, that sounds very negative, but it isn’t (well, not really).

Let’s ask a series of questions:

1. Why was I in that auto accident and lost use of my car? Well, it could have been worse, I could have been seriously hurt.
2. Why did my house flood during Harvey? Well, it could have been worse, it could have been blown down.
3. Why did I not get the job I really wanted at work? Well, it could have been worse, I could have been laid off.
4. Why does that boy or girl not want to go out with me? Well, it could have been worse, they could have left you for someone else.
5. Why did I come down with this serious illness? Well it could have been worse, I could have died.

You all have heard the old proverb that “the grass is greener on the other side of the fence”. But, really, what lessons do we learn from that?

**Meaning**: You use this proverb to **say** that the things **other** people have or their situations **always** look better than your own, even **when** they **are** not really so.

Does this mean that the phrase, “it could have been worse” is just a Pollyanna view on life? Are we just explaining away our pain? Or is there truly something there about “Counting Our Blessings” and knowing that the trials and temptations we are going through could really have been worse?

Well, as Christians, Children of God, we are to look to our Heavenly Father as benevolent, loving, and caring of us. We find that statement throughout the Bible. In fact, because of His care for us, He will allow us to be tested, so that we can be strengthened and better resist the devil. Look at James 1:12-18 with me.

***12Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. 13Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.***

***16Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. 17Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.[***[***d***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1&version=ESV#fen-ESV-30267d)***] 18Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.***

Do we believe that God loves us? Do we wonder why things happen to us? Yes and yes. However, we also have to believe that with all of the trials and temptations that come our way, it could have been worse. It really could have been. Don’t let trials and temptations rob you of your strength and faith. Call upon your brothers and sisters for strength when you are weak. Look to God’s word for encouragement. Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in you.

Double down on God’s love when sin and trials get you down and determine to do good. I will leave you with this thoughts -

Mt 22:36-38

*36“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” 37And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38This is the great and first commandment.*

So, let’s turn away from ideas like “why me?” or “it could be worse.” Know that God loves us and Jesus died for us, and are waiting, even now, for us in Heaven.

John 14:1-7

***14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God[***[***a***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A1-14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26670a)***]; believe also in me. 2My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4You know the way to the place where I am going.”***

***5Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7If you really know me, you will know[***[***b***](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14%3A1-14&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26676b)***] my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”***

Whether you need to come to Jesus for the first time or just need to come back to Him. Please come forward as we stand and sing.