



Order of Worship January 26, 2025 Third Sunday after Epiphany

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome Worship in Song Call to Worship Worship in Song Prayer

We Listen to the Word

Sermon Series: I Never Said That —Jesus Sermon: "Everything Happens for a Reason"

We Come to the Table

Prayer of Confession and Consecration The Lord's Prayer We Eat and Drink Together We Celebrate the Eucharist in Song Prayer

We Go to Live in the Reign of God

Community Life Doxology Blessing and Sending

Words to music, responsive readings and The Lord's Prayer will be on the screen



Doggy Bag-



Some questions to chew on:

- 1. How would you summarize this sermon in a couple of sentences? What impacted you the most?
- 2. What about this sermon was different from what you have been taught in the past?
- 3. How does seeing God as the cause of evil and suffering impact our trust in this God? How does a fatalist view impact someone's actions?
- 4. What is the true cause of evil and brokenness in our lives and world? What is the role of free will and the role of evil? What is God's role?
- 5. In your own words, what is the difference between God having a reason for pain/suffering and God using pain/ suffering? How does Jesus refute the former and embody the latter?
- 6. What do you sense God saying to you through this series? From the four messages, what was your takehome ?



If you'd like to talk personally and confidentially w/Pastor Kris about your relationship with Christ, please email *pastorkris@tablelifechurch.org* or call 717-774-6444

"Everything Happens for a Reason " Pastor Kris Beckert

The saying: "Everything happens for a _____

- Sometimes this phrase can be helpful to bring comfort, peace, and hope
- Can be _____ when used to describe serious and complicated events & situations like fires, job cuts, cancer, suicide, rape, accidents, infertility, divorce, genocide, etc.
- I. What does this phrase get wrong?
 - 1. It makes _____ responsible for everything that happens in life and in the world
 - The character of God is:

Psalm 103:8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

Luke 11:11-13 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

• Jesus never once attributed people's suffering to God's will.

2. It leads to human _____

- Some Christians believe in predestination/ fatalism, that all events, including someone's eternal destination, is predetermined by
- But if that's true, humans are merely puppets without choice, sin is caused by God, and there's nothing we can do
- Scripture teaches human beings were given gift of free will

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

- Rebellious choices reflect human will, not God's will
- II. 3 Principles about how _____ acts:
 - 1. God is _____ in our suffering

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

2. God is always working for _____

Romans 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose

3. God has a _____ and _____ for our life and for the world

God's perfect love wins! Not because he controls
it all

Revelation 21:3 "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

III. What is a better phrase?

"Everything happens. And God is for _____."

Big Idea: