

9-The Blame Game

11/12/23

INTRO:

I. → **Jeremiah 16:19-21**

*"Our ancestors inherited lies,
vanities in which there was no profit.*

Will people make their own gods?

Yet they were not even gods!"

*21 "Therefore I will show them once and for all—
show them my hand and my might.*

Then they will know

that my name is Yahweh."

→ *17:7 "Judah's sin is engraved with an iron tool,
inscribed with a flint point,*

*on the **tablets of their hearts***

and on the horns of their altars.

*2 Even their **children remember** their altars*

and their groves of green trees

upon the high hills.

→ *3 The wealth of my Mountain is in the field,
all your treasures are for plunder.*

*I will give away your **high places** for sin,
throughout all your borders.*

*4 Through your own **fault***

you will lose the inheritance I gave you.

I will enslave you to your enemies

in a land you do not know,

for you have kindled my anger,

and it will burn forever."

→ *13 Yahweh, you are the hope of Israel;*

all who forsake you will be put to shame.

Those who turn away from you will be written in dust

because they have forsaken the Yahweh,

the fountain of living water.

Heal me, Yahweh, and I will be healed;

save me and I will be saved,
for you are the one I praise.

- II. raphaeniy, hoshiyeniy
- III. **WHOSE FAULT WAS PEARL HARBOR?**
 - A. General who lined up the planes unloaded
 - B. The staticky radar
 - C. Supervisor who said it was bombers returning
 - D. Hawaiian Pastor

BODY:

I. Blaming God

- A. It is not God's will to bring calamity on anybody.
 - 1) **Lamentations 3:32-33**
*Though he brings grief, he will show compassion,
so great is his unfailing love.
For he does not willingly bring affliction
or grief to anyone.*
 - 2) **JAMES ARMINIUS IN THE PLAGUE IN LEIDEN**
 - 3) **LAHAINA WILDFIRE—HURRICANE DORA**
- B. Instead of focusing on "why" we should be focusing on "what."
 - 1) Most of our answers just don't help:
 - a) God never gives you more than you can handle
 - b) God is trying to teach you something
 - c) God has a master plan that you don't understand
 - d) God will make it up to you in the end
 - 2) **Job 16:4-5**
*I also could speak like you,
if you were in my place;
I could make fine speeches against you
and shake my head at you.
But my mouth would encourage you;
comfort from my lips would bring you relief.*
 - 3) What Job needed from his friends—what he was really asking for when he said "Why is God doing this to me?"—

was not theology, but sympathy. He did not really want them to explain God to him, and he certainly did not want them to show him where his theology was faulty. He wanted them to tell him that he was in fact a good person, and that the things that were happening to him were terribly tragic and unfair. But the friends got so bogged down talking about God that they almost forgot about Job, except to tell him that he must have done something pretty awful to deserve this fate at the hands of a righteous God.
—Rabbi Harold Kushner, *“When Bad Things Happen to Good People”* (1981)

II. Blaming Others

A. It is human nature to try to find someone to blame.

1) **John 9:2-3**

And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God [could] be revealed in him.” (NKJV)

2) Grk (*hína*) “that” does not indicate purpose but result
Grk (*phanerothé*) passive subjunctive, might or could

3) **BLAMING THE ISRAELIS WHO LIVE NEAR GAZA**

B. God’s grace frees us to be real and be human.

1) **Jude 24**

*To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without **fault** and with great joy.*

2) **MOLLY AND I MISSING OUR FLIGHT**

III. Blaming Ourselves

*Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed;
save me and I will be saved,*

A. The grace of God helps us find healing and salvation.

1) **Romans 8:34-35**

Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

2) **HERE TODAY—NO MORE FISTS**

B. Each day is an opportunity to find grace anew.

1) **Lamentations 3:21-23**

*Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:
Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

2) **CALLUM WAKING UP**