

Why would a **good** God
allow **bad** things
to happen?

BYSTANDER
JOHN & THE RABBI FROM NAZARETH

Have **you** ever done anything **bad**?

How could a **good** God allow **me** to happen?

If God is **good**,
why hasn't he done something about **me**?

I don't believe **God** exists,
because **I** exist.

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JOHN'S GOSPEL: SEVEN SIGNS

1. **The Wine Maker:** Six Stone Jars and a Nudge (John 2: 1-12)
 2. **The Choreographer:** Long Distance Healing (John 4: 43-54)
 3. **The Rule Breaker:** It's Never Too Late (John 5: 1-15)
 4. **Lord Algebra:** $5 + 2 = 5,000$ w/R 12 (John 6: 1-15)
 5. **The Water Walker:** Faith is Spelled R.I.S.K (John 6: 16-24)
 6. **The Eye Opener:** Never Say Never (John 9: 1-34)
- **The Grave Robber:** Punctuating His Power (John 11: 1-44)
- ❖ **Easter Invitation to Believe:** What do you believe?

*"How long will you keep us in suspense?
If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."
Jesus answered,
"I did tell you, but you did not believe.
The works (signs) I do in my Father's name
testify (evidence) about me."*

John 10: 24-25 NIV

*Now a man named Lazarus was sick.
He was from Bethany,
the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ...
So the sisters sent word to Jesus,
“Lord, the one you love is sick.”
When he heard this, Jesus said,
“This sickness will not end in death.
No, it (sickness) is for God’s glory so that (purpose)
God’s Son (Jesus) may be glorified through it (sign).”*

John 11: 1, 3-4 NIV

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*Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So when he heard that Lazarus was sick,
he stayed where he was two more days,
and then he said to his disciples.*

"Let us go back to Judea."

*"But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there
tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"*

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight?"

*Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble,
for they see by this world's light.*

*It is when a person walks at night that they stumble,
for they have no light."*

John 11: 5-10 NIV

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*“... there is, at bottom,
no **design**, no **purpose**,
no **evil**, and no **good**,
nothing but blind,
pitiless **indifference**.”*

Richard Dawkins
River Out of Eden

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*After he had said this, he went on to tell them,
“Our **friend** Lazarus has **fallen asleep**;
but I am **going** there to **wake him up**.”
His disciples replied,
“Lord, if he **sleeps**, he will get **better**.”
Jesus had been speaking of (Lazarus) **death**,
but his disciples thought he meant **natural sleep**.
So then he told them plainly,
“Lazarus is **dead**,
and for **your sake** I am **glad** I was not there,
so that (purpose) you may **believe**.
But let us **go** to him.”*

John 11: 11-15 NIV

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

Jesus said to her,

“Your brother will rise again.”

Martha answered,

“I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

John 11: 17-24 NIV

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*Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection and the life.
the one who believes in me will live,
even though they die;
and whoever lives by believing in me
will never die.*

“Do you believe this?”

“Yes, Lord,” she replied.

*“I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God,
who is coming into the world.”*

John 11: 25-27 NIV

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When Jesus *saw* her *weeping*,
“and the *Jews* who had come along with her *also* weeping,
he was *deeply moved* in spirit and *troubled*.
“Where have you laid him?” he asked.
“*Come* and *see*, Lord,” they replied.

Jesus *wept*.

Then the Jews said, “*See* how he *loved* him!”
But some of them said, “Could not he who *opened* the *eyes*
of the *blind man* have kept this *man* (Lazarus) from *dying*?”

John 11: 33-37 NIV

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Why didn't Jesus do something?

If he could have, he would have
but since he didn't he can't!

Eternity of "Why?" questions
condensed to the span
of a single afternoon.

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*Jesus once more **deeply moved**, came to the tomb.
It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.*

***"Take away the stone,"** he said.*

***"But, Lord,"** said Martha ...*

***"by this time (now) there is a bad odor,
for he has been there for four days."***

*Then Jesus said, **"Did I not tell you that if you believe,
(then) you will see the glory of God?"***

John 11: 38-40 NIV

*So they took away the stone.
Then Jesus **looked up** and said,
“**Father**, I thank you that you have **heard** me.
I knew that you **always hear** me,
but I said this for the **benefit** of the **people** standing here,
that they may **believe** that you **sent me**.”
When he said this, Jesus called in a loud voice,
“**Lazarus, come out!**”*

John 11: 41-45 NIV

*The dead man **came out**,
his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen,
and a cloth around his face.*

Jesus said to them,

*“**Take off** the grave cloths and **let him go.**”*

*Therefore **many** of the Jews who had **come** to visit Mary,
and had **seen** what Jesus did,
believed in him.*

John 11: 41-45 NIV

Do you **see** God's **goodness** (glory)?

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*Then the chief priests and the Pharisees
called a **meeting** of the **Sanhedrin**.
“What are we accomplishing?” they asked.
“Here is this man (**Jesus**) performing **many signs**.
If we **let** him go on like this,
everyone will **believe** in him,
and then the Romans will come and **take away**
both our **temple** and our **nation**.”*

John 11: 47-48 NIV

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