

Bible Chat week starting 31 7 22

Read Hosea 11: 1 - 11

1. Verse 2 describes the perversity of the human condition. Why do people behave in this way?
2. According to these verses, how is God affected by human suffering?
3. Does God change?
4. The passage reads as a description of God's inner thoughts about the waywardness of Israel. What do God's people deserve? What will they get? Why?

The sermon told this story:

Imagine you're listening to a Christian lady, and she tells you how God has wonderfully intervened in the case of her husband. You listen attentively. She says her husband was on a plane that crashed. There were 104 people on the plane and only one survived: Her beloved husband. The woman declares: Isn't God good?

1. Is the God this woman believes in good? Or is he very bad?
2. Why does God not intervene when a child faces lethal violence from its own parent?
3. Does God intervene directly in the world, like a dictator giving out commands? Or does God use soft, relational power to win hearts and inspire right behaviour?
4. To what extent does your answer to the previous question help to explain why God does not often seem to intervene directly when the innocent suffer?
5. What does the cross of Christ tell us about God and human suffering?
6. Reflect on how you can apply any lessons learnt in your prayer for and action in the world.