

Why God Allows Evil – Study Guide – (Session 4)

Chapter 3: *Are There No Good People?*

1. Why Do Bad People Do Good Things?
2. Examples of Human “Goodness”
3. Jesus on the Problem of Evil
 - a. Death is the result of sin, and therefore deserved by all
 - b. Suffering is not evidence of greater wickedness
 - c. Disaster and suffering are calls to repentance
4. Is This a Message We Want to Get Out?
5. What Good Is Knowing About Human Sinfulness?
 - a. Our Thinking About Evil is Backward
 - b. Honors Those Who Suffered
 - c. Puts Our Problems in Perspective
 - d. No Such Thing as a Little Rebellion
 - e. Impassioned Witness
 - f. Justifies God’s Judgment
 - g. Christ’s Sacrifice in Proper Perspective
 - h. Not Impressed with Skeptics
 - i. Human Heart Shapes Earthly Authority Structures
 - j. Unsettles Our Worldliness, Increases Desire for Jesus
 - k. The Magnitude of Christ’s Work
6. Summary and Conclusion

Study Questions: Session 4 – Chapter 3 “Are There No Good People?”

1. Read Mark 10:18 (10:17-22).

Who is good? What does this mean about people?

2. Read Matthew 5:28

What does it mean to commit a sin “in your heart”?

Sadly, given the opportunity, many people commit adultery.

Explain why other people, given the same opportunities, don't do it.

(hint: the answer is not a “church-approved reason”)

3. Jones says, “*we live in a society of adulterous murderers who think they are good people because they aren't acting out their sinful desires due to self-interest.*” (p. 67)

Do you agree? Are there any other reasons to think people are good?

4. Read Romans 3:12-15.

What's the difference between a good person and a nice person?

Read the first paragraph in the book starting under “Examples of Human ‘Goodness’.” Now read Luke 6:32-34. Compare the motivations for being nice with the motivation for being good. Can a human being have any proper motivation for being good?

5. Hebrews 2:15 says that through the fear of death we are subject to lifelong slavery.

Read the middle paragraph of p. 69.

What are some ways Jones offers that motivate people to act because of the fear of death? Do you agree with him?

6. We want to admire heroes, and this is right! (see handout from *Don't Waste Your Life* by John Piper)

However, deeds of heroism cannot save you. Jones seems to say that sometimes heroism is merely participation in something of lasting worth, in an attempt to achieve “ersatz immortality”. Do you agree?

Does Jones' account of heroism help get God “off the hook” for the ultimate fate of those who do heroic deeds, yet don't believe Him?