

Numbers 32:23 - Isn't it Ironic

Intro - popular '90's song by Alanis Morissette – “rain...free ride...good advise...it figures..life has a funny way of sneaking up on you”. These noticed ironies of life are expressed in different ways and go beyond what society terms “bad luck”. There is an observable *cosmic justice* afoot. “What goes around comes around”; “he had it coming to him”; Eastern religion has “Karma”. Songwriters/religions/ and people in general....are only observing a truth that God has woven into our existence. Gal. 6:7 Num. 32:23

Today we are going to note several Biblical narratives where this is borne out in lives of believers and unbelievers. God is no respecter of persons and sin is like a boomerang – it eventually circles back to hand that threw it. (Daughter used to chuckle at her mom's pregnancy issues...now she hears the same)

1. Jacob (aka Israel) the younger twin who was born grasping his brothers heel
 - a. Even today “jack” can mean “steal” - jack something/ carjack/hijack
 - b. He was sneaky and calculating to change the situation to his financial favor (birthright)
 - i. Upset when Laban switched out the sisters and changed wages 10 times
 1. “why did you deceive (jacob) me” Jacob was jacked
 - c. Jacob deceived his father with clothes. Isaac smelled Esau's clothes....”my son”
 - i. Years later Jacobs sons deceived him with a coat “my sons coat”
 - ii. Isn't it ironic that the one who deceive with a coat was deceived by a coat
2. Pharaoh
 - a. Killed babies and threw them into the Nile – Nile turned into blood (Rev. 16:5-6)
 - b. Wouldn't let the firstborn go and Pharaoh lost his firstborn
3. 40 day exploration of promise land bad report that demoralized the nation
 - a. sowed fear after 40 days so not to go in - reaped 40 years of not going in
4. Adoni-Bezek the book of Judges starts with a battle against this Canaanite king
 - a. Judges 1:6 they cut off his thumbs and big toes (how cruel of Israel)
 - b. Judges 1:7 God is just – even unbelievers can see this
 - c. Isn't is ironic that the king who cut off thumbs and toes had his thumbs and toes cut off?
5. Abimelek (Judges 9)
 - a. Abimelek was a son of Gideon
 - b. He killed his 70 brothers on one stone in the town of Oprah (Judges 9:5)
 - c. 1000 people of Shechem hid in a tower. Abimelek burned the tower and people
 - d. How did his story end? Attempting to burn down another tower full of people a woman dropped an upper millstone on his head. Judges 9:52-54
 - e. Judges 9:56 Isn't is ironic with Abimelek & this one stone and a tower?
6. Eli High Priest
 - a. Made himself fat on the Lord's offerings 1 Sam. 2:29 (Lev. 3:16; 7:22)
 - b. Died falling backwards off his chair and broke his neck...he was heavy 1 Sam. 4:18
 - c. Ironic that the man who got fat on offerings- that fat “weighed” too heavy for his neck?

7. Saul disobeyed God by not killing all the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15/Exodus 17:14-16)
 - a. It was an Amalekite that killed Saul after his failed suicide attempt (2 Sam. 1:6-10)
 - b. Isn't it ironic that it was an Amalekite who brought the crown to David?
 - i. David killed the Amalekite (2 Sam. 1:13-16)
 - ii. The saying "don't kill the messenger" probably based on this ironic account
8. David took another man's wife and then killed the husband to cover up the pregnancy
 - a. David was incensed about Nathan's story. The mean man should pay 4 fold
 - i. David was "the man" and it cost him 4 sons. Sword never left his house
 - b. Started on a rooftop in secret (peeping David)
 - i. You did in secret it will be done to you in broad daylight 2 Sam. 12:11-12
 - ii. Absalom set up a tent on rooftop and slept with David's wives 2 Sam 16:20-22
 - iii. Irony on the rooftop
9. Absalom
 - a. His hair was a sign of his being handsome/pride 2 Sam. 14:25-26
 - b. His hair caught in branched. Ironic that he was hung by his hair and died 2 Sam. 18:9ff
10. Jezebel and Ahab killed Naboth and the dogs ate his blood 1 Kings 21:19
 - a. When Ahab died the dogs liked his blood 1 Kings 22:38
 - b. Jezebel was thrown from a tower by plot of ground by Naboth's vineyard
 - i. Dogs ate her 2 Kings 9:30-37
11. Daniel got caught up in trap by power hungry people who outlawed prayer for 30 days
 - a. Thrown in lion's den God graciously preserved Daniel
 - b. The next day the leaders, and their families, were thrown in the lion's den (extra hungry)
 - c. Daniel 6:24. Ironic how those who set the trap were caught in trap they set
12. Haman Esther 7:10
 - a. Built gallows for Mordecai but was hung on the gallows he intended for another
 - b. Hated the Jews and wanted to exterminated them on a certain day
 - i. On that very day the tables were turned and Haman's family was exterminated
 - ii. Esther 9:1

End on a gospel note

- Sin is a big deal and big subject in scripture consequences
 - "cosmic justice" Gal. 6:7 Numbers 32:23 Romans 6:23
- There was one "cosmic injustice" where bad things happened to the only good Person
 - We have cursed others Jesus was cursed
 - We have betrayed/forsaken others Jesus was betrayed and forsaken
 - We have despised/mockered others Jesus was despised and mocked
 - We have sinned against God – dead Jesus reaped our eternal death
- The boomerang of sin that we threw circled around and squarely hit Jesus
 - Isn't it ironic that all of my insults have fallen on Jesus?
 - My sin found Him out is this "gospel karma"?
 - Isn't it ironic that the only innocent person suffered in the place of the guilty?