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BAD THINGS CAN TURN TO GOOD

Sometimes things happen in the natural [physical] realm which would seem to be very bad, disastrous, or even deadly. However, God can use them for good. We see such a story in Acts 27-40 – 28:10.

Paul, along with many other prisoners, were on a ship bound for Rome to face trial. Roman soldiers were onboard to assure their safe delivery. However, a fierce storm had run the wooden ship aground near the shore. As the ship was breaking up, the soldiers wanted to kill all the prisoners to avoid any escaping to safety. Paul appealed for their lives to the centurion in charge. The centurion then allowed the prisoners, both swimmers and non-swimmers, to grab onto pieces of the ship to save themselves. This shipwreck would qualify as a very bad circumstance.

However, they all made it safely to the shore of the Island of Melita. The barbarians there welcomed them and took care of them. It was cold and rainy, so a fire was built. At some point, Paul gathered some wood to add to the fire, and when he did this, a very poisonous, deadly viper bit him and fastened itself upon his hand. This had to be a bad situation, right?

Paul shook the viper off into the fire. The natives of the island watched earnestly, expecting Paul to swell up and fall down dead. When nothing happened to Paul, they came to realize that this was a godly intervention, even proclaiming Paul to be a god.

The chief man of the island, Publius, took Paul and the others in and brought Paul to his sick father. Paul laid hands upon him, and he was healed. Because of this, many others from the island came to Paul and were healed. Did they get saved? We know that the same faith that heals also saves. Paul spent three months on that island preaching the gospel.

Shipwreck? Bad. Snake bite. Bad. But it all worked out for good as many heathens were converted to Jesus Christ.

When terrible things happen to you, your family, or your friends, keep your focus on Jesus and God's mercy and grace. You may see a greater good come out of the bad.

God has a way of working out all these things. Do not be discouraged. Keep trusting him.