

Who's to Say if Good or Bad

A story is told of a man who had a prize stallion. One day, it leaped over the corral, raced down the road, and disappeared into the distance.

His friends came to comfort him. "That's bad news," they said sadly. "Who's to say if it's good or bad," said the old man. "All that we can say is that the horse ran away."

A few days later, the stallion came bolting back into his corral, bringing with it a dozen other wild horses. His friends crowded around. "That's good news!" they cried. "Who's to say if it's good or bad," said the old man. "All that we can say is that the horse has returned."

Later, the old man's son – his only helper – began the dangerous challenge of breaking in the dozen wild horses and was thrown to the ground, badly breaking his leg. The old man's friends once again gathered, saying, "We heard the bad news that your son – your only helper – has broken his leg."

Again, the old man replied, "Who's to say if it's bad news. All that we can say is that my son – my only helper – has broken his leg."



A few days later, war broke out in the land, and all the young men were called to duty. But the old man's son could not enlist because he was still nursing his broken leg.

As the war raged, one by one the sons of the old man's friends were reported injured or killed.

As the old man and his friends gathered to ponder his circumstances, they all conceded that no one can judge any circumstance to be good or bad. Our heart response to God's sovereignty alone can do that.

No doubt, in your own life experiences, you've had trials of one kind or another that troubled you then. But as you look back on those times, you can agree that you were made stronger for them. Or conversely, perhaps you were involved in circumstances that, at the time, seemed beneficial or rewarding, but eventually turned sour.

We cannot see what's down the road on this journey of life, but God can.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter

