

## *Reflections with Sharon*

### **It's a faith thing**

*Read 10:19-39*

Pick up a copy of the daily newspaper anywhere in the world on any given day and you are bound to be confronted with stories of senseless tragedies that force you to confront the question of why bad things happen to good people: In a case of mistaken identity, a caring young man is shot to death by police on his wedding day; a little girl falls into a swimming pool and drowns; a college graduate with a bright future becomes the victim of an accident and is paralyzed; a loving couple's longing for a child remains unfulfilled; a young wife and mother succumbs to cancer and dies; an innocent teenager is raped and tortured; a father is laid off and can't provide for the needs of his family; a family loses all its earthly possessions in a fire; flood victims discover that their insurance won't cover the damages.

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do innocent people suffer? Why is a promising young life cut short, while wicked people seem to defy death? Why do evil people prosper, when so many decent, honest, hard working folk are struggling to make ends meet? Why do the wrong people suffer misfortune and failure and loss? Which of us has not wrestled with the question of why life is so unfair?

The road of suffering is never an easy one to walk when the hurt is personal. When you are grappling with questions of why, you want to scream and throw a book at insensitive people who assume to have all the answers to the pain you're going through. You want to cry out to God, point your finger in His face and ask Him what you ever did to deserve such harsh treatment; but instead you closet your disappointment for fear that He strikes you with something even worse.

I know firsthand what it is to be disappointed in God. I have struggled with issues of mistrusting the love and goodness of God at times when it just didn't seem right that I should have to suffer when wicked people seemingly got off without facing any consequences. But God is never shaken by my honesty. He can handle my questions and fears and accusations and is not angry when my puny, little mind is unable to grasp the vastness of His unsurpassable goodness and incomparable love.

That's why it's a faith thing. We will never have all the answers; we will never know every reason for the seemingly unfair distribution of suffering. But during those times when troubles come in like a flood and nothing seems to make any sense; when our cherished plans go awry and we are forced to relinquish our dreams, we can rest assured and know by faith that God is good. He is in sovereign control of the universe and there's purpose to every single trial we must endure. It's a faith thing!