



We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

—Romans 8:28

My favorite Bible passage has always been Micah 6:8. It is my go-to-reading especially when times are tough, and I am up against those with both the propensity and the capacity for abusing power. These are the times when I find myself praying out loud—and at times in plaintive desperation for answers: what, dear God, am I to do? Simple, so simple, is the response. “To do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God” (Micah 6:8).

Unerringly Micah provides this beautifully unambiguous prescriptive response to my “what” question. This is *what* you are to do.

Like many Christians, I tend not to ask “why” questions as they seem almost disrespectful. My faith, our shared faith, is of course always the reason *why*.

Like many Christians, however, I tend also to stumble at times and in those moments of doubt and uncertainty, yearn for reassurance that why I do what I do matters to God.

Lent is that most precious of times for asking ourselves these very important self-reflective questions. It is the time for recognizing what causes us to stumble, what causes us to doubt, and what it is we need reassuring about.

And so it is that as I consider anew the very short verse from Romans, I find myself powerfully reassured that the answer to the why I do what I do question has been so simply and yet so lovingly crafted.

We have indeed been called out through our baptism to serve God's purpose. Even in the toughest of times, we can be assured that in so doing, ultimately all things will work together for good because of our faith-filled love of God.

Loving God, in this precious Lenten time enables us to ponder anew both the "what" and the "why" questions. Guide us, assure us, strengthen us and inspire us as we undertake to always be your faithful missional servants. Amen.

—**Jenny Te Paa Daniel**