

None but their own

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By Lenny Cacchio

LEE'S SUMMIT, Mo.—"Child," said the Lion, "I am telling you your story, not hers. No one is told any story but their own" (*Aslan in The Chronicles of Narnia: The Horse and His Boy*, by C.S. Lewis).

Jesus saith unto him, "If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me" (John 21:22).

The Word of God teaches us about a very personal God who "cares for you," a God who depicts himself as both Father and Friend. It speaks of a God who cared enough to send His Son to walk among us, die for us and be resurrected for us so we could become fellow heirs with Him for all eternity.

And yet this all-loving, all-powerful God allows every one of us his valleys and his mountaintops. When *in* the valleys we wonder about the goodness of God, but *through* the valleys we must go if we are to yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness.

Yet I fear sometimes that we read too much into the blessings and cursings of others. Job's three friends took the opportunity of his valley to instruct him in his failings. Surely, they believed, the punishment upon Job was for some egregious sin, and they were not shy in ticking off Job's perceived character flaws.

But, at the end of the story, God said to Eliphaz, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of me the things that are right, as my servant Job has" (Job 42:7).

Remember that the Lion said, "No one is told any story but their own."

When we see other people in the valley, we might think we see the punishment of God, and when we see them on the mountaintop we might think we see the blessings of God. But we forget that God is a personal God who cares for us all on a deeply personal level.

If we listen, we can hear Him saying to us, "I am telling you *your* story, not theirs. No one is told any story but their own."

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).