

# Why, God, Why?"

## Wrestling with the questions of evil, suffering, and God

9/4	Questioning the Suffering God
9/11	The Problem with the Problem
9/18	Why does Evil Exist?
9/25	What not to say when someone asks "Why?" and What to do.
10/2	Moving from "Why" to "What now"
10/9	Testimonies of grace and Q & A

### Intro:

- Everyone has a story
- The secondary level of suffering that questions bring
- Ask "My God, Why" three ways:
  - With a Question mark (?)
  - With an Exclamation point (!)
  - With a Period (.)
- I. Things to Keep in Mind as we go through this Series
  - Admit upfront we don't have all the answers (1 Cor 13:12)
  - Purpose is to attempt to give framework to help address issues, freedom to ask the tough questions, permission to express the pain, and ultimately point to Christ.
  - Begin by dealing with Who it is we are asking the question of
    - God is most clearly revealed in Jesus Christ (Gal 4:4; Heb 1:3)
    - God is relational within Himself and with us (Jn 17:21)
      - Perichoresis
- II. The Cry from the Cross (Mark 15:34)
  - Early church felt important to maintain words in original language
    - Spoken in Aramaic, Gospels written in Greek
  - Points to Psalm 22, but is more than simply quoting scripture
  - It is a cry of suffering (Heb 5:7)
  - It is a cry of faith (MY God)
  - It is a cry of absence (Forsaken)
    - Sense of abandonment is proof of the reality of God's engagement in our lives
  - Objective reality (something is happening: Father and Son separated on cross)
    - 2 Cor 5:21

- Subjective reality (pain of the questioning)
- The question we desire to ask, but how do we ask and who are we to ask?
  - Struggle of Job (Job 9:32-35)
- The Answer to our question of "Why" is Jesus
  - 1 Tim 2:15
  - Presence, Experience, and Promise

### III. Take-Aways

- Be Honest when you Approach God
- Know that the God we question is the God who identifies with our Question
- The Promise that One day All will be made right

*The physical pain was nothing compared to the spiritual experience of cosmic abandonment. Christianity alone among the world religions claims that God became uniquely and fully human in Jesus Christ and therefore knows firsthand despair, rejection, loneliness, poverty, bereavement, torture, and imprisonment. On the cross he went beyond even the worst human suffering and experienced cosmic rejection and pain that exceeds ours as infinitely as his knowledge and power exceeds ours.*

*-Timothy Keller*

*For whatever reason God chose to make man as he is – limited and suffering and subject to sorrow and death – God had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine.*

*- Dorothy Sayers*

*I could never myself believe in God, if it were not for the cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it?*

*-John Stott*

*In Jesus God has come to share our pain. God is no absent academic who writes a book on the problem of pain. He has got involved. He has allowed pain at its most severe to strike him. We worship a suffering God: that is the best answer to the problem of undeserved suffering.*

*- Michael Green*

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*- Jesus*