

# Why, God, Why?"

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

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

## Intro:

- *The Difference between the Theological discussion and the real world*
- *How do we live out our faith in a real world of suffering*
- *When it comes to suffering: EXPECT IT.*
- *Following in the footsteps of Jesus*

## I. *The Encounter with the Blind Man (John 9:1-5)*

- *Who is the villain to blame for the suffering of this man?*
- *The sufferer is more than a theological riddle to solve, the sufferer is someone to MINISTER TO.*
- *Jesus works in the suffering to bring about the glory of God. Didn't cause the pain, but is at work in the person's life.*
- *We are called to be the light of the world and continue the ministry of Jesus to the sufferer.*
- *Where there is suffering, there is Christ. Where there is suffering, where is the church?*

## II. *But What about When We are the sufferer? (Psalm 13)*

- *Be Honest About the Pain (Psalm 13:1-3)*
  - *Basic Pattern of the Laments*
- *Stay connected to God even in the Pain (Psalm 13:5-6)*
  - *Trust*
  - *Focus on His Love*
  - *Rejoice in His relationship with you*
  - *Worship*
  - *Remember past Goodness*

- *Turn Your Suffering Over to God for healing and allow Him to bring "Beauty from Ashes" (Isa 61:3)*
  - *How can God use our pain?*
    - *Wake up call*
    - *Strengthen and refine*
    - *Opportunity to Help Others (2 Cor 1:3-4)*
- *Remember, Joy comes in the morning. (2 Cor 4:16-18)*
  - *Light and momentary*
  - *Glory outweighs our suffering*

## Conclusion:

- *In our suffering, we see God*
- *Summing up series: God is not the cause of the evil and suffering we see in the world, but we chose to turn away from God which created the fallen world we live in. Yet, God entered into our world of pain and suffering and became the chief sufferer and in doing so, He has brought true healing to us. As we await the day when pain and suffering is no more, God is at work in us, helping others through us, as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.*

*"Christ suffered unto the death, not that men might not suffer, but that their suffering might be like His."*

*- George MacDonald*

*"But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."*

*-C.S. Lewis*

*"Though my natural instinct is to wish for a life free from pain, trouble, and adversity, I am learning to welcome anything that makes me conscious of my need for Him. If prayer is birthed out of desperation, then anything that makes me desperate for God is a blessing... Puritan pastor William Gurnall makes this point in his writings, "The hungry man needs no help to teach him how to beg."*

*-Nancy Leigh Demoss*



**Narrow Road Gospel Bluegrass Band.** *On October 16<sup>th</sup> during our second service, the bluegrass band "Narrow Road" will be with us to help lead our worship. Don't miss this chance to worship with some great music.*