

April 19, 2015

“Why Does God Allow Suffering?”

Genesis 50:15-21

Sermon Series: “Questions Our Youth Are Asking”

- 1. Question Of The Day:** Why Does God Allow Suffering?
- 2. Small Group Discussion (3-4 minutes):** Why does God allow bad things to happen? What is His plan? Does He have a plan?
- 3. Reading:** Genesis 50:15-21 (Allison Newman)
- 4. Message**

A Really Important Question: a perennial question, maybe the top reason people give for not believing in God.

Suffering In The World And At Home

More Than “Allowing”: “Intending,” “Willing” And “Ordaining”

Joseph to his brothers: “You **intended** to harm me, but God **intended** it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20).

The Suffering Of Jesus

“Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did **what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen**” (Acts 4:27-28).

What Is God Up To?

“[God] uses suffering and evil to accomplish a greater good, even if we never know exactly what that reason is” (Credo House blog, October 13, 2012)

The goal is to do “good”:

The suffering of Joseph: “...the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20)

The suffering of Jesus: bringing many unrighteous people near to God (1 Peter 3:18)

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for **good**, for those who are called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

“Am I, for instance, just sidling [inching] back to God because I know that if there’s any road to H. [Joy], it runs through Him? But then of course I know perfectly well that He can’t be used as a road. If you’re approaching Him not as the goal but as a road, not as the end but as a means, you’re not really approaching Him at all” (A Grief Observed, 68).

Q & A (778.895.6837)