

Wednesday

Read Romans 5:1-8

I did use Romans 5:8 on Sunday in saying that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. What is interesting about this passage is that previous to this famous verse (5:8), is a declaration that we will *rejoice* in our *sufferings*.

Thursday

Read Romans 8:18-30

This passage is probably the one I regret the most not having time to use. It talks about creation itself being “subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it” and that there is a future hope that “creation itself will be liberated from its bondage.” Pay special attention to verse 28.

Friday

Read Job 38

There isn't much to speak to in this passage; this is a passage in which we must sit and listen. You might find yourself standing with arms lifted high and listening by the end. That was my experience the first time I read Job 38!

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Introduction

Our Pain and Suffering in the light of a Sovereign Eternal God

1. Perhaps the wrong question

Who is good?

Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23

Does God punish the bad and reward the good?

Luke 13:1-5

2. Does pain and suffering in this world mean God can't exist?

“I just don't believe the God of Christianity exists,” said Hillary, an undergrad English major. “God allows terrible suffering in the world. So He might be either all-powerful but not good enough to end evil and suffering, or else He might be all good but not powerful enough to end evil and suffering. Either way the all-good, all powerful God of the Bible couldn't exist.”

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of “just” and “unjust”?...what was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?...Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too—for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please my private fancies...consequently atheism turns out to be too simple.”- C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

3. Getting to the real question

Rob Hillary's boyfriend said, "This isn't a philosophical issue to me. This is personal. I won't believe in a God who allows suffering, even if he, she or it exists. Maybe God exists, maybe not. But if He does, He can't be trusted."

a) Is God good? And if so, is HE always good?

Can HE be trusted?

Genesis 1:31

b) Sin, death, and suffering entered at the fall

Romans 5:12

c) A reason for pain and suffering?

Genesis 50:19-20

James 1:2

d) The mind of God

Isaiah 55:8-9

Romans 11:33-36

4. A look at suffering through the view of the cross

a) Incarnation

b) He was like us in life and suffering

c) We may not know what the answer is, but we do know what the answer isn't!

Conclusion

Is everything sad going to come untrue?

YES!

Revelation 22:1-5

Emmaus Road

...and He opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

The question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" or as we discovered at the depths of our heart is really a question of "is God good?" is a difficult question to answer. When I started working on this sermon, I went straight to the Scriptures. For it is in the Scriptures we must find the answers. When I was done, I had filled over six pages of typed biblical passages (it takes about four to five pages of notes to fill the time we have on Sunday morning)! So, in this week's Emmaus Road I want to provide some more Scriptures for you that I didn't have time to address in the sermon. I won't comment much on each passage, but I ask that you would meditate on each Scripture as you seek the goodness of God. I pray this week you will see that even though we are not good, God's goodness, through His grace and love poured out for us on the cross has been given to us. And in the knowledge of His goodness we have faith in the knowledge that HE works all things out for good.

Monday

Read Matthew 19:16-30

In this passage, Jesus Himself says there is only One who is good. In the final verses 28-30, Jesus tells us about the hope for the renewal of all things.

Tuesday

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13

This passage helps us see that the suffering we endure is not specific to us. God doesn't single us out to pick on us. Because of the fallen nature of the world, we have a common temptation and therefore a common suffering. Also note in the passage the hope our good God gives to us.