



JOHN 9:1-3

“Why do bad things happen to good people?”

1 We struggle to make _____ of the incomprehensible suffering we see in our world.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL ARGUMENT:

“An all-loving and all-powerful God would not allow suffering.”

2 People have attempted throughout history to find _____ to suffering.

Buddhism says suffering is caused by attachments to worldly things.

Hinduism says suffering is retribution for bad choices made in previous lifetimes.

Islam says suffering is a tool used to test one's submission and reveal their destination.

Modern humanism says suffering has no purpose and should be avoided and eliminated.

3 _____ is the only solution that reconciles our experiences and our emotions. (vv. 1-3)

Our _____ of suffering is explained by a fallen and sinful world. (Gen 3)

- sinful people make bad choices
- sinful people inflict pain on others
- fallen creation causes harmful effects

Our _____ is found in the One who can repurpose our hurts for our good and His glory. (Rom 8:28)

Our _____ for justice will ultimately be realized when evil is judged and condemned forever. (Matt 13:24-30)

“God would not allow any evil to exist unless out of it he could draw a greater good. This is part of the wisdom and goodness of God.” –AUGUSTINE

Q: Why did the _____ thing happen to the _____ Person?



HOME GROUP LESSON

1. What false assumptions do people have when they ask questions about suffering? What false assumptions did you have about it yourself before hearing this sermon?

2. What solutions, like those listed under sermon point 2, have you tried in the past to make sense of suffering? How satisfied were you with the outcome, and why?

3. How are illness and death related to sin? Give biblical references to support your answers.

4. Why is death such a taboo subject for many Christians? For a Christian, what things are worse than death?

5. How is our *response* to suffering more important than finding out the “why”? What is needed to ensure that experiences of illness, suffering, and bereavement make us better people, not bitter people?

6. Where is your “home?” In what ways do you live in the light of the new Heaven and the new Earth? What comfort does this prospect offer?

Close in prayer.

FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

BOOKS:

- How Long, O Lord?: Reflections on Suffering and Evil* – D. A. Carson
- The Many Faces of Evil: Theological Systems and the Problems of Evil* – John Feinberg
- Suffering and the Sovereignty of God* – John Piper
- When God Weeps* – Joni Eareckson Tada and Steven Estes
- The Problem of Pain* – C.S. Lewis

WEB:

- Soul Care class audio – ccbcbfamily.org/adults/soul-care/training-classes
 - *How People Change*
 - *Overwhelmed: Dealing with Fear, Stress and Anxiety*
- Joni and Friends radio podcast and tv episodes on iTunes and at joniandfriends.org
- Joni Eareckson Tada shares deep biblical insights on suffering gleaned from over four decades in a wheelchair*
- Christ Chapel's online learning course for this series: ccbcb.pathwright.com

“Suffering so unbolts the door of the heart, that the Word hath easier entrance.”

RICHARD BAXTER

“Illness, bereavement, and suffering actually shape us; they temper us; they mold us. We may not enjoy the process; but they transform us. ... that truth is explicitly taught in Romans 5:1–5. Rightly accepted, pain cleanses us from self-centeredness, gives us insight into the nature of this fallen world, prepares us for death, makes us remember the sufferings of Christ and of others. The Welsh hymn-writer and evangelist William Williams testified that he had gained on his deathbed more knowledge of himself, and more knowledge of the goodness of God, than during the previous forty years of his life. ... experiences of suffering, illness, and bereavement engender compassion and empathy in us, and therefore make us better able to help others.”

D. A. CARSON
HOW LONG, O LORD?: REFLECTIONS ON SUFFERING AND EVIL

“The problem of suffering does not go away if you abandon belief in God. If there is no God, why have a sense of outrage and horror when unjust suffering occurs to any group of people? ... On what basis do you say cruelty is wrong? ... If there were no higher divine law that defined what justice is, there would be no way to tell if any particular human practice or experience was unjust or not.”

TIM KELLER, *WALKING WITH GOD*

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week. Like to plan ahead a little more? Pick up a copy of *The Source* at a stand around campus or near the exits, or visit www.ccbcbfamily.org/events. They're your source for everything going on at Christ Chapel.

LADIES, JOIN US THIS WEEKEND FOR THE SPRING PRAYER RETREAT. Looking for rest and peace? Need wisdom and encouragement? Get away this Friday, May 11 and Saturday, May 12 to Riverbend Retreat Center in Glen Rose. You'll have lots of time to pray on your own, plus you'll get to know other Christ Chapel ladies and hear a few share their stories about the power of prayer. Registration closes this Thursday, May 10 at www.ccbcbfamily.org/events.

THERE'S A SAGES SERENDIPITY DINNER THIS FRIDAY, MAY 11. If you're an adult in your 60s or better, join us for a lovely dinner before the big band concert! Tickets are for sale today in the Sages class (which meets at 9:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall) for \$15 each. You can also buy tickets by calling Jessica at 817-546-2514. The dinner will be at 6 p.m. in the Oak Room.

DON'T MISS THIS FRIDAY'S BIG BAND & SINGERS CONCERT. The CCBC Big Band & Singers are getting ready for a brilliant night of jazz this Friday, May 11. Invite a friend, coworker or neighbor to “The Colors of Swing” and come enjoy a spectrum of songs like “Blue Suede Shoes,” “Sweet Georgia Brown” and “Somewhere Over The Rainbow” at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. For more info, visit www.ccbcbfamily.org/events.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO NOCHE DE LA FAMILIA. We're having a family-friendly night for our Spanish-speaking neighbors this Saturday, May 12. There will be food, live music, giveaways and a pastor sharing the gospel. If you know anyone who would benefit from a night like this, pick up a flyer at the Welcome Desk and invite them this week! Questions? Contact Jessica at JessicaK@christchapelbc.org.

GUYS, SIGN UP FOR THIS SUMMER'S BAND OF BROTHERS STUDY. Starting Thursday, May 24, we're digging into Ecclesiastes to learn from Solomon, a man who had everything yet still lacked significance, contentment and purpose. His lessons are as relevant now as the day they were written, so pack some practical wisdom into your summer and get to know a community of guys on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in The Den. Sign up today at www.ccbcbfamily.org/men.

SPOTS ARE GOING FAST - DON'T MISS KIDS KAMP 2018! In 3, 2, 1 ... it's time to blast off for the best week of the summer! Your kids will absolutely love Kids Kamp – four days of out-of-this-world games, skits, friends and more. Made for kids entering Grades 1-4 this fall, Kids Kamp is June 19-22. Learn more and sign up today at www.ccbcbfamily.org/events.

DOWNLOAD THE CCBC APP. Available from the App Store and Google Play, our app keeps you in touch while on the go with sermon archives, staff contacts, a way to submit prayer requests, and ESV Bible and more.