

Sermon Notes

Big Idea: If God is really in control, why do bad things happen to Godly people? How can an Almighty God who is good, allow so much suffering in the lives of those He loves? Why does it often feel like evil is winning, darkness is prevailing, and God isn't answering our desperate prayers for rescue. What could we possibly learn from all this? This is a Study of God's Sovereignty, People's Suffering, and the Salvation of the Redeemed.

**There's nothing more sure in life than suffering,
and
There's nothing more shaping in life than suffering.**

Job 1:1-2:10 (ESV)

How to Address the "WHY?" of Suffering:

- **Avoid Pat Answers.**

God is involved in your suffering because He's intimately involved with you!

- **Acknowledge that you may not get Answers.**

Job learned to trust that God is: Right | Good | God

- **Anticipate the Final Answer.**

Jesus will: Restore | Repay | Reward

The lie of Satan is that if you give yourself fully to God, He will let you down.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What impacted you the most from this week's message? Encouraged you? Challenged you?
- 2) Read Job 1:7-8, and put your name in place of Job's. What thoughts and/or emotions stir up as you read this out loud? Put a loved one's name there... how does that feel?
- 3) How has your life been shaped by suffering? How has God grown you through seasons of difficulty and sorrow?
- 4) When it comes to addressing the "WHY?" of Suffering, have you ever experienced answers that seemed too simple or trite from others? Have you given answers that aren't helpful? Explain.
- 5) Are you able to trust that not getting answers while suffering can be a part of God's plan? Is Jesus as the ultimate Answer enough for you? How about for those you're helping? Explain.