



Sermon Title: You Asked For It, Part 1

Sermon Title: Why Evil?

Date: 6/25/2023

### **Habakkuk 1:2-6**

Today we begin tackling the question: Why evil? There are many different times when God's word addresses this question. We see it at the beginning of Genesis 2.16-17, by Jesus in Luke 13, and in today's passage in Habakkuk 1. In God's word – Why evil? Is recognized and addressed.

**Accept God's plan, even if it confuses you.**

You do that by avoiding the following Mistakes.

Habakkuk is a prophet of God, living in the years right before God exiles the nation of Judah and all of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. Instead of obeying and following the one you and I call Father, Israel has been chasing after, creating, and worshiping Idols. Habakkuk is given the vision of what God is about to do, and in doing so, gives us a glimpse into the answer to the question: Why evil?

**Mistake #1. Don't assume God is uncaring.**

### **Habakkuk 1:2-3**

Habakkuk calls for God to intervene and ASSUMES God's not listening. Everything the prophet sees reminds him evil is expanding. When you and I look at society, we may feel the same way. But all of these are false Assumptions. God's Justice is coming – just as sure as anything you can hope for – but in His time and in His way.

**Mistake #2. Don't come to false conclusions.**

### **Habakkuk 1:4**

Habakkuk looked around his beloved Jerusalem city and remembered the old days when the Law of God was the rule of the day when godly

people were the norm. NO!!! A DREAM - that's really what it was, a dream. You and I are subject to the same faulty thinking about our society. TRUTH: People are universally sinful.

In Jesus' day, people sought clarity about the same questions. (Luke 13:1-5). This one passage gives you a glimpse into the mind of Jesus.

We want to believe only the evil should perish or have bad things happen to them – but Jesus turns it all around to the only answer worth contemplating:

**Mistake #3. Don't label God's plan as evil**  
**Habakkuk 1:5-6**

God's Response to Habakkuk is a promise of the very judgment Habakkuk is asking for. But it's about to come through a people God is raising up – the fiercest, most ungodly, most powerful, violence-filled people. What is about to happen is not random – God is doing this work.

Today – you and I would call this evil. But do not label God's plan as evil. The capture of the Land and destruction of God's people by the Babylonians was necessary to purge idol worship from his people permanently.

To avoid the mistake of labeling God's plan in your life as evil, you have to go all the way back to the beginning of time: **Genesis 2:7-9**

Before sin was in the world, God wanted man to enjoy the Garden – eat everything – even the Tree of Life. But what did God want man to avoid? God did not want you or me to have knowledge of good and evil.

When Adam and Eve ate of the fruit from that tree – the first consequence was they changed the way they looked at each other and themselves.

God created them, male and female; in the image of God, He created them. They were naked and felt no shame – that's the good of God. After eating – nothing changed but their shame and assumption that being naked was bad.

Evil does exist – but God gets to define what's what.

We are not supposed to make these judgment calls – we must leave them to God.

The answer is God does NOT tolerate evil – it will all be judged by Him at one time or another. Sometimes in your lifetime, sometimes not, sometimes in eternity. God does not create evil; he uses painful actions to repel people from him, to save some, and to draw others closer.

Three heart attitudes:

1. Believe God's word and timeline about future JUDGMENT.
2. Look for God's MERCY in every situation.
3. Reject your instinct to LABEL something as evil.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- How would you answer someone who says God can not be all good or all-powerful because evil exists - if He was all good and all-powerful, He would prevent evil?
- Describe a time when you thought something was evil, but then you saw good come from it.
- Is it possible for good to exist without evil? Explain why or why not.
- Would your faith in God be shaken if He was seemingly silent when you faced evil?