

The welcome verse for this week is Psalm 145:18, “The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.”



The Man on the Moon

Psalm 13; Psalm 22
Isaiah 40:27-31

Bottom Line: God not only cares about our suffering, but He joins us in it, so that death and resurrection are equally ours.

Introduction:

Thomas Hardy, the English novelist and poet, asked a question in his pessimistic and agnostic poem, “*Nature’s Questioning*.”

Hardy was writing from the depths of the human experience, which has its moments of celebration and its seasons of despair.

Christian or not, the question asked in the poem is one that arises in all of us at one point or another: **Why would God have us suffer?**

Tension:

Our painful experience brings a more-than-painful question, and our responses go one of two ways, either:

- (1) God is good enough, but not powerful enough to intervene.
- (2) God is powerful enough, but not good enough to intervene.

Truth:

As a result, skeptics conclude that the God of scripture doesn’t exist or, if he does exist, doesn’t deserve worship; Christian believers cover up this tension with suffering with flimsy platitudes.

Both of these responses result in people who are still in distress and uncertain if there’s a God who cares about it at all.

The scriptures never hide humanity’s despair or doubt from us. David was one of many who yearned for God’s intervention in his suffering. **Read Psalm 13.**

Why does God allow suffering? We do not fully know. But what we do know is this: It is not because he does not care or because he has distanced himself. In fact, God has shown he cares by bringing Jesus near. God not only cares about our suffering, but He joins us in it, so that death and resurrection are equally ours.

Does Jesus care? *Yes, He cares, I know He cares.*

Reflection Questions:

1. What does this teach me about God?

2. What does this teach me about me?

3. How do I apply this to my life?