Why does God allow suffering? — Job 3:1-26
James Muldoon - Carey Baptist Church – 31 October 2010

Introduction

- What does suffering make some people think about God?

- Does the Bible tackle the subject of why God allows suffering?

- How did Job first respond to what he suffered in **Job 1:21**?

- How did he respond in **Job 3:3** and **Job 3:11-12**?

- How did he respond in **Job 3:20-23** and **Job 27:2**?

- What are two reasons why people think about the question of why God allows suffering?

    (i)

    (ii)

i Suffering is not pointless

- Which New Testament passage shows that suffering does not need to be pointless?

- Does that passage teach us that we should enjoy pain?

- What does suffering do to people, if they allow it?

- How does this refine the way we look at suffering?

ii Suffering is not undeserved

- Which New Testament passage deals with this?

- Were the Galileans who were slaughtered by Pontius Pilate worse sinners than the rest of the people who lived in Galilee?

- What is Jesus actually teaching, then?

- How does he emphasise the point?

- What is the underlying assumption behind the question when some people ask, "Why does God allow suffering?"

- Why, then, is suffering not undeserved?

- How does **Romans 6:23** put it?

<u>iii Suffering is not unfelt</u>

- Who do Christians believe that Jesus Christ is?

- What did some of the physical suffering of the cross involve?

- What do we read of Jesus' inner suffering just before the cross…

    - in **John 13:21**?

    - in **Mark 14:33**?

    - in **Mark 14:34**?

- What did the people around the cross do to Jesus?

- What was God doing to Jesus as he died on the cross?

- How does that encourage us in our suffering?

<u>iv Suffering is not hopeless</u>

- What helps you to endure suffering?

- What hope does the Bible give to Christians?

- What does **Revelation 21:4** say about how the universe will be when Christ returns?

- What will be the case for those who are not Christians, though?

- How can you become a follower of Christ?

<u>Conclusion</u>

- What happens at the end of the Book of Job?

- How does Job respond in **Job 42:5-6**?

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