

Sermon Title: "Why Does God Allow Suffering and Evil?"

Scripture:

? *Romans 8:28 (NIV)*

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Introduction

One of the hardest questions people ask is, *"If God is good, why does He allow suffering and evil?"*

It's a question that's both theological and personal. Whether it's illness, loss, injustice, or pain — we've all felt it.

Let's explore what the Bible says, and how God's perspective is different from ours.

1. God Gave Us Free Will

God created us with **free will**—the ability to choose. Without free will, love would be meaningless.

? *Deuteronomy 30:19*

“...I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live.”

Many of the world's evils—war, injustice, abuse—are the result of human choices, not God's will.

2. Suffering Can Have Purpose

God can use suffering to build character, faith, and even bring about greater good.

? *James 1:2-4*

“Consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials... because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”

God doesn't enjoy our pain, but He never wastes it.

3. We Don't See the Whole Picture

We see the moment. God sees the whole story.

? *Isaiah 55:8-9*

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord.

Illustration Story: The Chinese Farmer

There was a wise Chinese farmer. One day, his horse ran away. His neighbor said, "What bad luck!"

The farmer replied, "Maybe so, maybe not."

The next day, the horse returned, bringing three wild horses with it.

"How wonderful!" said the neighbor.

"Maybe so, maybe not," said the farmer.

The next day, the farmer's son tried to ride one of the wild horses, was thrown off, and broke his leg.

"How terrible!" said the neighbor.

"Maybe so, maybe not," said the farmer.

The next day, soldiers came to draft all the young men for war. Because the son had a broken leg, he was spared.

"How lucky!" said the neighbor.

"Maybe so, maybe not," said the farmer.

Moral: We don't always know what God is doing — but we can trust that He is working for our good.

Conclusion

Yes, there is evil. Yes, there is suffering.

But no, that doesn't mean God is absent.

Jesus Himself suffered — on the cross — to conquer sin, death, and evil forever.

? *John 16:33*

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Call to Action

Trust Him. Even when you don't understand.

Even in pain.

Because **God is still good**, and **He is still in control**.