

IS GOD A MORAL MONSTER?

Part 3: The Problem of Evil

Introduction:

With all the evil and suffering in the world, where is God? More importantly, where is God in the midst of your evil and suffering?

Notable Quote:

"The problem of evil and suffering doesn't have to be a problem that prevents you from trusting Jesus."

Icebreaker Questions:

- What's one question you've always wanted to ask God?
- If you could eliminate one type of evil, or suffering, in the world what would it be?

Observation Questions:

- What are some examples of evil and suffering mentioned in the sermon? How do these examples relate to your own experiences or those you know?
- Read John 9:1-3. How does Jesus' response challenge their (and our) assumptions about suffering?
- How does the Enlightenment's emphasis on reason and science (having to have a full answer for everything) influence our modern struggle with the problem of evil and suffering?
 - Are you able to be satisfied with not having a complete answer to the problem of evil and suffering?

Interpretation Questions:

- What does Jesus' response in John 9:3 ("This happened so that the power of God could be seen in him") tell us about the purpose or role of suffering in the Christian life?
- C.S. Lewis argues that our recognition of injustice implies an understanding of justice, which points to a higher moral standard. How does this argument strengthen the case for the existence of God?
- How does the Christian understanding of the cross as God entering into our suffering differ from other religious or secular responses to evil and suffering?

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Application Questions:

- Personal: How can you apply the insights from today's discussion to your own experiences of suffering or the suffering of those around you? What steps can you take to trust God more deeply in the midst of suffering?
- Group: As a community, how can we better support each other when facing evil and suffering? What practical steps can we take to be a source of hope and encouragement?

Respond in Prayer:

- Pray for clarity and understanding as you continue to explore the tensions in Scripture.
- Ask God for wisdom to engage with difficult questions and the grace to hold on to faith even when answers are not immediately clear.