
❖SERMON NOTES ❖

Sunday, November 15, 2009

“WHY SUFFERING?”

(John 11:1-45)

The question is often phrased this way – “If God is good and if God is all-powerful, why does He allow evil and suffering in the world?” Today we will seek to begin addressing a difficult question most of us have asked at some level at some point in our lives.

“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows but take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, NLT).

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most” (Hebrews 4:15-16, NLT).

1. God uses problems to _____ you
(Proverbs 20:30, GN).

2. God uses problems to _____ you
(James 1:2-3, NCV).

3. God uses problems to _____ you
(Psalm 119:71-72, LB).

4. God uses problems to _____ you
(Genesis 50:20, NIV).

5. God uses problems to _____ you
(Romans 5:3-4, LB).

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NIV).

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(John 11:1-45)

“Jesus wept” (John 11:35, NIV).

“Jesus called in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, ‘Take off the grave clothes and let him go’” (John 11:43-44, NIV).

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18, NIV).

“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows” (John 16:33, NLT).

“But take heart, because I have overcome the world” (John 16:33b, NLT).

“This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most” (Hebrews 4:15-16, NLT).

1. God uses problems to DIRECT you.

“Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways” (Proverbs 20:30, GN).

2. God uses problems to INSPECT you.

“When you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you patience.” James 1:2-3 (NCV)

3. God uses problems to CORRECT you.

“It was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws” (Psalm 119:71-72, LB).

4. God uses problems to PROTECT you

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good” (Genesis 50:20, NIV).

5. God uses problems to PERFECT you.

“We can rejoice when we run into problems ... they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady” (Romans 5:3-4, LB).

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one” (Romans 3:10-12, NIV).

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, NIV).