

WHY: THE ULTIMATE QUESTION WEEK ONE

OUR QUESTIONS/GOD'S ANSWERS...we prefer answers to questions; we have ENOUGH QUESTIONS as it is. We have choices to make and problems to face. What happens to the questions we don't ask? Voiced or left unsaid, they get buried but they won't stay buried. They rumble inside us till they surface. In this class we will tackle 4 difficult questions:

Why is life so unfair and the innocent suffer? Why do prayers go unanswered? Why can't I see God's Will in My Life? Will God's plans ultimately prevail?

Faith isn't presuming to have the right answers but learning to ask BETTER QUESTIONS. Many questions stem from our ASSUMPTIONS about how GOD IS SUPPOSED TO WORK. Yet OUR ASSUMPTIONS are often wrong? On this side of heaven, all answers are INCOMPLETE.

LIFE ISN'T FAIR...sooner or later it hits us: LIFE IS UNFAIR. Who ever said that it was? Even if it were fair, if we got WHAT WE THINK WE DESERVE, what kind of life would it be? Suffering is a subject we like to ignore till it strikes us. It has led many people to question God's goodness. Life was very unfair to Jesus. His life wasn't a stroll in the park. Christianity isn't built on easy answers but a Cross. There are no GOOD EXPLANATIONS for why the innocent suffer. Jesus didn't explain suffering; he bore it.

GOD CAN REDEEM WHAT HE DIDN'T CAUSE...God doesn't cause suffering but he can redeem what he didn't cause. He brings good out of the bad humanity causes. He doesn't dole out GOOD/BAD LUCK CARDS to the deserving or undeserving. He grieves over all human sorrow. God is good even when life is not.

WHEN JESUS ASKED WHY...Jesus revealed a God who is acquainted with grief; whose love enables us to live without answers. He ASKED THE WHY QUESTION himself. Hanging on the Cross, enduring a moment that he knew was God's will, he let loose a scream heard around the world:

MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? WHY DID HE SCREAM?

So that when we scream, we'll know that GOD IS GOOD. He endured the WORST THE WORLD CAN DISH OUT but never strayed from his mission.

LETTING GO/LETTING GOD...we cry, "Why did this happen? Where is God when I hurt" but what we need aren't GOD'S ANSWERS, but HIS PRESENCE. Things happen for no good reason. Shouldn't God protect us, spare us from suffering? God isn't in the PROTECTION BUSINESS; he is in the SALVATION BUSINESS