

**September 17, 2017**

Sermon Topic: Why Does God Allow Evil to Continue to Exist in this World Today?

**1 Chronicles 29:10-13**

Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. (ESV)

Introduction: The two men in the raft from the USS Indianapolis

The conundrum goes like this:

**If God is good then He must hate evil:** Psalm 25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. (ESV)

**If God is All-Powerful He could prevent it from happening:** Jeremiah 32:17 'Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you. (ESV)

**Since there is evil in the world then A) God is either not good, or B) God is not omnipotent for if he was good and omnipotent He would have prevented evil from happening.**

- Theodicy: Theos=God dika=righteousness, a theodicy is an explanation of how God is righteous.
  1. **Evil exists.** Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Terror bombings, most recently in London. Disease, epidemics, floods, droughts, cancer, child abuse and rape. Massive Corruption in our government.
  2. Evil exists **and God could have prevented it.** Could God have directed Harvey south and Irma east? YES. Could God have exposed the terrorists to the authorities or caused them to have heart attacks or blow up their bombs in their houses? YES. Could God have read the kidnapers minds here in Alex who kidnapped Jasmine Block and hit them with lightning before they kidnapped and sexually abused Jasmine? YES.
  3. Evil exists and God could have prevented it **because He is sovereign and in control of all things.**

Psalm 115:3 Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. (ESV)

Daniel 4:35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants

of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" (ESV)

Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. (ESV)

Proverbs 21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will. (ESV)

Lamentations 3:37-38 Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? (ESV)

Amos 3:6 Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, unless the LORD has done it? (ESV)

4. Evil exists and God could have prevented it because He is sovereign and in control of all things, **but he doesn't because He uses evil to accomplish a greater good, in fact He ordains it!**

Isaiah 45:5-7 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things. (ESV)

Isaiah 45:9-10 "Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' or 'Your work has no handles'? Woe to him who says to a father, 'What are you begetting?' or to a woman, 'With what are you in labor?'" (ESV)

Objections:

- God didn't ordain it because he didn't know it would happen. Open Theism and Process Theology.
  - God didn't ordain it because he gave man a free will. Arminianism. Really? Who let Satan into the garden? Who created Satan to begin with? Where did he come from? Once created and rebelled why didn't God send him to the gas chambers for rebellious angels? Putting man's free will as an explanation for why evil exists means that God values man's free will more than he values a world free from evil.
5. **The greater good is God's higher purpose for evil. That purpose is to bring greater glory to God seen in His mercy, grace, and love.**
    - Why does a jeweler show his diamonds on a black background?

- Would God be able to show His true glory without sin?

Romans 3:5 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) (ESV)

We would not know how holy God is unless we were unholy, unrighteous, unjust. The blackness of our sin spotlights the beauty of God's righteousness.

Romans 5:8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ESV)

Expound on gospel here.

If a husband truly loved a wife, but reserved back the absolute best part of his personality say, willing to lay down his life for her, would that be loving? He would but there would be no opportunity for her to know it unless he told her he would and proved it by doing so.

Romans 9:22-23 What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory— (ESV)

If there were no sin, there would be no ability to see God's mercy, his grace, his love for us at the cross.

Prior to sin and evil, God could not be worshiped for his grace to forgive – he didn't need to forgive anybody. Prior to evil, God could not be worshiped for His perfect justice since there would be no one to punish and exact his wrath.

6. The greater good is God's higher purpose for evil. That purpose is to bring greater glory to God seen in His mercy, grace, and love **as well as His overarching good and sovereign design for His people.**

Joseph and the preservation of Israel:

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. (ESV)

The bondage in Egypt:

Romans 9:17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." (ESV)

The preservation of Israel through Queen Esther

Why did God cause Haddasah's parents to die so that she was left to be raised by an uncle?

Esther 4:12-14 And they told Mordecai what Esther had said. Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think to yourself that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (ESV)

Our salvation in Christ:

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. (ESV)

Our growth in Christ:

Romans 5:3-5 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (ESV)

How does good come out of evil?

1. Gianna Jessen, born during a saline induced abortion, speaking to thousands about God's grace.
2. What about the horrific holocaust of the Jews by Adolf Hitler? It caused the birth of the nation of Israel.
3. What about Alexander the Great's conquest of Asia? It made Greek the worldwide language and enabled the gospel to be spread through the Greek NT.
4. Your own growth in Christ and maturity.

2 Corinthians 12:8-10 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (ESV)