

# Sermon: making sense of suffering

Job 1: 6-21 / 2: 7-10

(outline from *the Case for Faith*, by Lee Strobel)

*“Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can, but does not want to; or he cannot and does not want to. If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent. If he can, and does not want to, he is wicked. But, if God both can and wants to abolish evil, then how comes evil in the world?”*

--- Epicurus, Philosopher

Only in a world where faith is difficult can **faith** exist.

Evil as evidence for God:

The fact that a **standard** of good and evil exist means there must be an understanding of supreme **good**. If there is an understanding of supreme **good** then where did it come from? Man left to his own design seeks evil, hence there must be a supreme **God** who has set a standard for supreme **good**.

*“The universe is so bad... how on earth did human beings ever come to attribute it to the activity of a wise and good Creator?”*

---C. S. Lewis

1: God is all **powerful**. He can do everything that is meaningful, everything that is possible, and everything that makes sense at all.

2: God is all **knowing**: Deicide(death of God)

Evil and bad things happening can be used to bring about good. Jesus coming and suffering death was the most horrible thing that could ever happen, yet because of this evil happening to the most Holy innocent and pure Being then hope, life, and a future are possible for those who do not deserve it.

3: God is all **good**:

If God is wiser and greater than us then does it not stand to reason that He understands that some pain is needed for reasons we may not understand but which He sees as being necessary for some eventual good. Therefore He is not being evil by allowing some pain to come into our lives.

*The point in our lives is not comfort, but training and preparation for eternity.*

Hebrews 5: 8

? Evil comes to **test** us.

? Evil must be **endured** till all who can be saved are saved. God is ultimately waiting for the final day so all can be saved who can be saved. At that moment He will end this madness of Satan's chaos and thus wanting all who can be saved proves that God ultimately has all of mankind's best interest in mind.

II Peter 3: 3-15