

- 1) The Hard Question - The sermon uses a dark joke told by Ricky Gervais to introduce the central question of suffering, "Where was God – and why didn't he do anything?" Can you think of a time when you were tempted to ask, "Where was God?" Consider sharing a personal experience, a historical event, or a recurring pattern in the world that makes this question feel most urgent or painful for you. [Note: This question requires a high level of trust and an equally high level of vulnerability. If someone is willing to share, the group must be prepared not to correct or fix or instruct the person but simply be present with them in their suffering and questions.]
- 2) Wailing - The sermon defines wailing as "the believer's beckoning cry" that is "never unheard, never unanswered, and never dismissed by Jesus." What does it mean to you that Jesus answers our wailing not always with an explanation but with his presence? What or who has ever helped you move from wanting an *explanation* for your pain to simply seeking the *presence* of Jesus in it?
- 3) Holy Rage - The sermon describes Jesus' reaction to death as holy rage - an "indignant snort of anger" like a "great, angry war-horse." Before hearing this, what was your mental image of Jesus' reaction to suffering? Indifference? Quiet sorrow? Peaceful acceptance?

How does the image of the Lion of Judah who is enraged at the "reign of terror that death exercises" change your perception of his power and character?

- 4) Weeping - Jesus wept. The sermon offers three reasons Jesus weeps. He weeps because he loves. He weeps because although he is truly God he is also truly man. And he weeps with those who weep. Which of these three reasons resonates most deeply with you right now, and why?
- 5) Answer to a Wounded World - The sermon concludes that the answer to a wounded world is not an easy explanation, but the Person of Jesus, who absorbed God's wrath on the cross so he could "destroy death and keep his friends from dying."

How does the pairing of God's wrath – swallowing up death forever - swallows up death forever - and his mercy - wiping away every tear - give you hope for the future? What is one practical step you can take this week to live as if in Jesus all things hold together (Colossians 1:17)?