

Week Two: Our Unwilling World...

HIS WILL IGNORED...if God has a will for the world, it is hard to see signs of taking shape. Life isn't fair; our best-laid plans fall apart. Things change. We live in a world where the innocent suffer; where evil prospers; and where God seems strangely silent. What we see happening in the world isn't God's will being done but it being ignored. Was it meant to be so flawed, filled with suffering or has something happened? How does the shape of the world affect your faith in God?

THE PRESENCE OF EVIL...there is obviously a force at work in the world that opposes God, that defies his will: EVIL. It runs rampant. The sheer magnitude of evil boggles the mind, frightens the most faithful soul. We may disagree about how to define evil, or why it is allowed to exist, but few people need to be convinced of its reality. We cannot blame it all on Satan. In a way, we hardly need a devil. Humans causes enough misery unaided

OUR DARK SIDE...we have a dark side. Our real enemy doesn't live across the seas but inside us. Evil isn't lurking out there trying to overtake us; it is inside waiting to undermine us. We have seen the enemy and it is US. We try to hold it together, but we all battle our OWN DEMONS.

THE SIN OUT THERE...the only sin/evil some people see is "out there" or the wrongs others do. What makes sin so sinful is DENIAL: we don't view what we do as sin. Given the right set of circumstances, we are capable of almost anything. We vote FOR/AGAINST God every day

WINNING OUR BATTLE...we do play a part in evil, but we can play a role in countering it. Will we resist evil or will we do nothing? As Christians, we are called to shine our lights, not to curse the darkness. We are to overcome evil with good, to bring hope, to be a part of the solution, and not just a part of the problem.