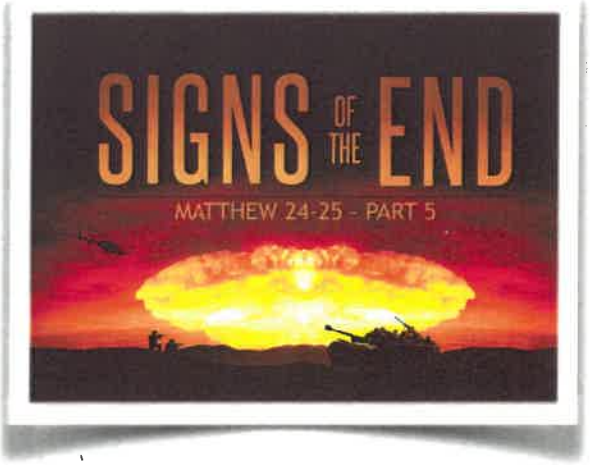

Lesson: Two Hundred twenty five
Series: Signs of the End
Title:. How to Respond to Suffering- Part 2
Text: Matthew 24:9
Date: August 16, 2020

The Olivet Discourse has a twofold purpose.

1. To correct the disciples misunderstanding on the timing of the Lord's return.

2. To prepare them for suffering leading up to His return.

Birth pangs

1. Spiritual deception
2. International conflict
3. Natural disasters
4. Persecution of believers.

Matthew 24:9 "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name.

How should Christians respond to suffering?

1. Don't be surprised by it.

1 Peter 4:12–19 Beloved, do not be **SURPRISED** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

John 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, ***they will also persecute you;***

Genesis 3:15 And I will put ***ENMITY*** *Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."*

2. God uses fiery ordeals to _____ our faith.

1 Peter 4:12–19 Beloved, do not be **surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your **TESTING**, as though some strange thing were happening to you

"testing" [Peirasmos] - to test for the purpose of

_____

Suffering isn't _____, it's granted by God to reveal the genuineness of our faith.

James 1:2–4 Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces **endurance.**

"endurance" [hypomone] -TDNT - "to stand firm," "to endure," "to bear," "to suffer."

"While hypoménō is at first ethically neutral - it becomes a prominent virtue in the sense of _____ _____.

It's not patience - it has the active significance of energy that's necessarily for successful resistance

4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

"perfect result"

"perfect, complete, lacking in nothing"

The goal of trials - _____

Am I _____ to suffer if it makes me more like Christ?

Matthew 13:20–21 "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 **YET** he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

Perseverance in the mist of opposition reveals the _____ of our conversion.

Matthew 14:10 "At that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another.

3. We should _____ in it.

13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

"share the sufferings of Christ"

Colossians 1:24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, **in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.**

Acts 9:4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting **ME**?"

A. We will be _____ at His return.

1 Peter 4:13–14 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, (why?) **so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.**

Revelation 22:12 "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.

Matthew 5:10–12 "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. 12 "Rejoice and be glad, for **your reward in heaven is great;** for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Luke 6:22–23 "Blessed are you when men hate you, and ostracize you, and insult you, and scorn your name as evil, for the sake of the Son of Man. 23 "Be glad in that day and leap for joy, for behold, **your reward is great in heaven.** For in the same way their fathers used to treat the prophets.

2 Corinthians 4:17–18 17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us **an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,** 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Revelation 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be **tested,** and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you **the crown of life.**

B. It proves the _____ of God rests on us.

Matthew 24:14 If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

"the spirit of glory" "rests"

1) An increased _____ with God.

Exodus 24:16–18 The glory of the Lord **rested** on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud. 17 And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. 18 Moses **entered the midst of the cloud** as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

Acts 7:55–59 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and **saw the glory of God**, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." 57 But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. 58 When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

Daniel 3:25 He said, "Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth **is like a son of the gods!**

2) A _____ into His image.

Moses' face shined with God's glory - Ex. 34:29-35
Stephen's face looked like and angel - Acts 6:15

Our _____ of Christ's glory increases as we suffer through trials.

3) We become _____ by the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 12:9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the **power of Christ may dwell in me.**

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

"God is faithful"

"and"

"provide the way of escape"

"able to endure it"

Discussion Guide

1. Share within your group some examples in your own life when you knew that God was testing your faith. What did you learn and what was the result?

2. What does God promise in James 1:2-4? Why does He not always eliminate our suffering?

3. Some believe that serving Christ for rewards is a wrong motive, but that's how God motivates us. How can we understand that it's a right motive?

4. Review 1 Cor. 10:13. Explore scenarios in which you might use the verse to counsel others who are suffering.

ANSWERS: test, Self-examination, accidental, courageous endurance, Spiritual maturity, willing, genuineness, rejoice, rewarded, spirit, intimacy, transormation, reflection, grows, empowered