

God is able:

_____ to our suffering
_____ to our suffering
_____ our suffering

DISCUSSION:

What losses have you personally experienced within the last year? What were your responses to those losses?

Did you know someone who suffered from loss this year? How did you reach out to them?

Do we know how to mourn with someone? What does that look like in today's church?

Which sister do you relate to when dealing with suffering?

How has this passage of scripture helped you today?

Answers: Reality, Responses, Reason, Removal, negative, ramifications, intellectually, emotionally, good, glory, resurrect, resuscitated, disobedience, obedience, related, redeem, remove.



Date: May 3, 2021
Text: John 11:17-53
Title: In The midst of Suffering

A biblical view of suffering in the midst of suffering -John 11:17-53.

1. _____ of Suffering
2. _____ to Suffering
3. _____ for Suffering
4. _____ of Suffering

1. Reality of Suffering

John 11:17-19

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off; ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.

Why is there suffering?

Genesis 3 – This is when sin, death and suffering enter the world.

Biblical Definition of Suffering

“Suffering is anytime we experience the _____ effects or _____ of the fall at any level or to any degree.”

When we do not have a proper biblical view of suffering, we tend to respond to suffering in a nonbiblical way. We, as Christians often will respond either one of two ways:

a. We will Minimize it.

b. We will Moralize it

We are called to Mourn!

When we look at Scripture, we see individuals who openly mourn for the loss of loved ones.

a. Job at the loss of his family

b. Abraham at the loss of Sarah

c. David at the loss of his children

d. Jesus at the loss of Lazarus

1. He Weeps

2. He is Troubled.

God hates the consequences of Death.

II. Responses to Suffering

John 11:20-38 *Martha, therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.* ²¹ *Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.* ²² *Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."* ²³ *Jesus *said to her, "Your brother will rise again."* ²⁴ *Martha *said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the*

Death and Suffering were not yet defeated.

So, how is Jesus going to ultimately defeat death and suffering?

Philippians 2:5-11

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men, ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus knew that to remove all suffering, He, the God / Man, who knew no sin had to become sin for us and to die in our place.

So what we see here, it not the final step (temporarily removing suffering), but rather the first step to eternally removing suffering.

The first Adam brought death and suffering into this world through is _____.

The last Adam will remove sin and suffering through _____.

The same God who for us in our suffering is also for us in our salvation!

Jesus tells us the reasons for this suffering in verse 4 and 15.

"This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

"Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, so that you may believe; but let us go to him."

IV. Removal of Suffering

John 11:39-46 53

Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus *said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me." ⁴³ When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus *said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what He had done, believed in Him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them the things which Jesus had done.

⁵³ So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.

Raising Lazarus from the dead was one of Jesus' greatest miracles, but it is only a foreshadowing of His greatest miracle.

It is important to note that Jesus did not _____ Lazarus, He _____ Lazarus!

last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are ²⁸the Christ, the Son of God, even ²⁹He who comes into the world."

²⁸ When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she *got up quickly and was coming to Him.

³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still in the place where Martha met Him. ³¹ Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and ³⁴was troubled, ³⁴ and said, "Where have you laid him?" They *said to Him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus wept. ³⁶ So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?"

Three Separate Responses

- a. Martha responds _____.
- b. Mary responds _____.
- c. Jesus _____.

III. Reason for Suffering

5 major ways God uses suffering in the believer's life.

a. Repentance - Suffering is a call for us and others to turn from treasuring anything on this earth.

Luke 13:4-5

Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. "

b. Reliance - Suffering is a call to trust God and not the life sustaining props of this world.

2 Corinthians 1:8-9

For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our strength, so that we despaired even of life; ⁹ indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead;

c. Righteousness - Suffering is the discipline of our heavenly Father so that we come to share His righteousness and holiness.

Hebrews 12:6,

FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES, AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES. "

Hebrews 12:10-11

¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. ¹¹ All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

d. Reward – Suffering is working for us a great reward in heaven that will make up for every loss here on earth thousandfold.

2 Corinthians 4:17

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,

e. Reminder – Suffering reminds us that God sent His Son into the world to suffer so that our suffering would not be God's condemnation but His purification.

Philippians 3:10

that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.

TWO MAJOR TRUTHS !!!

a. It is for our _____ as believers.

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren.

b. It is for God's _____.

1 Peter 4:12-13

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange things were happening to you, 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.