
❖ **SERMON NOTES** ❖

Sunday, May 27, 2018

“THE MYSTERY OF SUFFERING”

(John 4:46-54; 5:1-9)

What is God’s purpose in our suffering? In God’s plan, nothing is wasted and nothing is without purpose.

“That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31, ESV).

1. Suffering works to _____.
(Philippians 1:12-13 ESV).

2. Suffering spurs other believers to _____.
(Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV).

3. Suffering shows our weakness, _____.
(2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV).

4. Suffering teaches us to trust _____.
(2 Corinthians 1: 8-9 ESV).

5. Suffering shows the _____.
(1 Peter 1: 6-7 ESV).

6. Suffering produces _____.
(Hebrews 12:7, 11 ESV).

7. Suffering makes us _____.
(2 Corinthians 4:17-18 ESV).

8. Suffering brings us _____.
(Romans 8:17-18, ESV).

9. Suffering gives us the _____.
(2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV).

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(John 4:46-54; 5:1-9)

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up” (Daniel 3:17-18, ESV).

“That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31, ESV).

1. Suffering works to advance the gospel.

“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ” (Philippians 1:12-13 ESV).

2. Suffering spurs other believers to keep trusting in Christ.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV).

3. Suffering shows our weakness, demonstrating Christ’s power in us.

“But he said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships,

persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10 ESV).

4. Suffering teaches us to trust God and not our own abilities.

“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead” (2 Corinthians 1: 8-9 ESV).

5. Suffering shows the genuineness of our faith.

“You have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 1: 6-7 ESV).

6. Suffering produces righteousness in us.

“It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it” (Hebrews 12:7, 11 ESV).

“We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” (Romans 5:3-4 ESV).

7. Suffering makes us value and long for what is eternal.

“With the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day” (2 Peter 3:8, ESV).

“For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18 ESV).

8. Suffering brings us heavenly reward.

“We suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Romans 8:17-18, ESV).

9. Suffering gives us the ability to comfort and encourage others in their suffering.

“The Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV).