

SUFFERING: A CONDUIT FOR GROWTH

1 Peter 3.8-22, 4.12-19

DON'T FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE: VERSES 8-16

Peter reiterates that we should endure and expect suffering, and that our response should come from the example given by Christ.

Luke 12.4-7 // Romans 12.9-21 // Hebrews 2.10, 5.8, 9, 12.1-3 // James 1.2-4

IS SUFFERING GOD'S WILL?: VERSES 3.17 AND 4.12-19

The Word promises us that we will suffer for righteousness' sake. It is not for us to loathe situations or people and become bitter, but rather to look to Christ as our example and "consider it joy" when we suffer for His sake, looking to the future hope of glory.

It is a miserable existence for a believer to think that *in this life* they will get all that Christ purchased on the cross.

When we are waiting for vindication, comfort, the easy life, the material blessing, the healing, the ideal life, so that *then we can be happy and have joy*, we will simply waste our life on worry, sorrow, regret, self-centeredness, bitterness, and anger, towards others, ourselves, and God.

Matthew 6.19-21 // 1 Corinthians 15.23-26

**A disciple is not above his teacher,
nor a servant above his master.**

-Jesus, from Matthew 10.21-25

Matthew 10.21-25 // Luke 22.42 // 2 Corinthians 4.17 // 2 Timothy 3.12

BAPTISM REMINDS US OF OUR FUTURE: VERSES 3.18-22

God disciplines us as sons.
God prunes us as vines.
God refines us as gold.

Psalms 119.67

Romans 8.18 // Hebrews 12.2



NOTES:

WANT TO GET CONNECTED?

- **JOIN A COMMUNITY GROUP!**

If you want to get connected to a group of people near your neighborhood, let us know by filling out the **Connection Card** or visiting the **Connection Booth** in the Atrium!

- **JOIN A MINISTRY TEAM!**

We would love to have you come serve our community with us. Let us know on our **Connection Card** that you want to help!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BAPTISM AND MEAL ON CINCO DE MAYO!

We will be having our first ever **Baptism** after service on **Sunday, May 5th**! If you are interested in being baptized, please mention it on your **Connection Card**. We are looking forward to enjoying some tasty Mexican dishes as we celebrate this first baptism on **Cinco de Mayo!**

SERMON CDs AVAILABLE

If you would like a copy of the sermon from today's service, go to the sound booth in the back right after service. They will make one just for you!

Also, make sure to not just watch, but also subscribe to our **YouTube Channel**, which is at youtube.com/LifeMissionTV. You will get notified AS SOON as our sermons and short videos go up online!

KIDS ON MISSION

Please log on to check out www.lifemissionchurch.com and click "Kids" at the top to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart and his walk through of our curriculum.

Also, the daily devotional book, **Long Story Short**, is available in the Atrium to purchase.



SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

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COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday? _____

Read **1 Peter 3.8-17** and **4.12-19**. What words or thoughts through these first few verses jump out at you? _____

Have you ever been told, or told someone, "God blesses obedience" or "God will honor it if you do the right thing" when they are faced with a difficult situation? Let's think a little critically about these phrases. Though not *entirely* false, what do they set us up to expect? _____

God does indeed bless obedience, but oftentimes what our words are laced with is "it'll work out in your favor and you want it to." And that part is simply not true. God's blessing you for your obedience may be the blessing of suffering or persecution, not alleviation or vindication. How can suffering or persecution be a blessing? _____

Read **Romans 5.1-5**. What does suffering produce in our lives, and how does that give us more confidence? _____

Suffering reveals what you worship. When we endure suffering, if we are truly believers it will, even if painfully, bring us closer to Christ. If our hope is not in Christ, we will run to other things. Suffering builds confidence in Christ because it produces more evidence and fruit of your salvation, which turns into a greater amount of faith that you then live out. Having the right perspective on suffering wrongfully is critical for us to know that we can run to Christ and trust in Him.

Read these **Proverbs: 10.9, 17, 11.3, 12.1, 17, 18, 13.13, 15.1, 17.13, 17.27, 20.19, 22.5, 24, 25, 24.17, 18, 29, 25.21, 22, 28, 26.24-26, 27.5, 6**. That's a big ol' list of proverbs. What comfort or peace can you take from them as you think through your own temptations to seek out justice and retribution in "unfair" circumstances in your life? _____

I often say that it's one thing to agree with the truth, it's another thing to live it out. How can you effectively "live out" these truths so that your temptation doesn't draw you into a sinful response? _____

On a piece of paper, think through the "unfair" or "unjust" suffering you have or are enduring, and write out what you feel like you are "owed" so that you can "move on." Then, below it, write out why Christ's payment on the cross for their sins is not enough. If that line is blank, you are in good shape...now it's time to give thanks to Christ for what He has done, repent of bitterness, ask Him for restoration and humility in your heart, and yield to His work in your life.

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