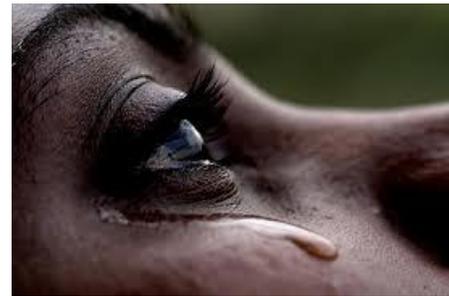


Disciplined Disciples

Northwest Church of Christ: Young Adults

Winter Quarter: 2014-2015

Topic: Rely on God: even through pain and suffering



Important Scriptures

- Genesis 3:16-19- When sin was introduced, so was suffering.
- Psalm 42:5- Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation
- Job 13:15- Though he slay me, I will hope in him; [1] yet I will argue my ways to his face.
- James 1:2-3 - 2 Count it all joy, my brothers, [2] when you meet trials of various kinds, 3 for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness

Many atheists today claim that the reason they are atheists is because of pain and suffering. They look at babies with serious health problems, world hunger, and violence and they say to themselves "How can there be a loving God, with all of this bad?" As a disciplined Disciple, we need to have a studied understanding of pain and suffering.

1. Biblical pain and suffering

- a. Gen 3:16-19- It is of the utmost importance for us to realize that there was no suffering before sin.
- b. All suffering exists today because of sin.
- c. When someone is hurting deeply because of something tragic and they think to themselves, "This is not right!" They are right. God didn't create the world to be a place full of misery, Sin made it that way.
- d. God's people were in slavery. Not because God was punishing them, but because men had sinful hearts.
- e. 2 Samuel 12:11- David was punished as a direct result of his sin with Bathsheba.
- f. Job on the other hand, did nothing to "Deserve" his suffering.
- g. Even through his suffering, Job trusted in God.

2. Normal Response to pain and suffering.

- a. Blame God

- b. Blame others
- c. Blame ourselves (What did I do to deserve this?)
- d. Battle deep depression
- e. Withdraw from friends and family
- f. Turn to drugs, alcohol, or sexual promiscuity to fill the "void."



3. The Christian's response to pain and suffering.

- a. We prepare for the storm: James 1:2-3 tells us trials are coming. We must prepare by building ourselves and our walk with God so that we can stand the storms
- b. We praise God:
 - i. Psalm 42:5-6
 - ii. Job 13:15
- c. Remember that we don't belong here:
- d. Jesus is preparing our eternal home John 14
 - i. What kind of an impact would it have on your children if each time you go through a trial, you talk about how much you want to be in heaven?
- e. We refocus our lives back on our Father:
 - i. Think of Peter, his trials, then his refocusing, and his preaching.

Discussing the Word

1. How do you typically respond when going through a trial?
2. What do you think is meant in James chapter 1 about "counting it all joy" during trials?
3. What benefits come through trials?
4. Do bad things happen to all people?

