

Handout November 14, 2025

Suffering
Isaiah 43:1-2

Welcome back and here we go! Tonight, we tackle the subject of suffering. Seems there is a lot of it now-a-days --- some deserved and some underserved. Irregardless, none of it is enjoyable. I praise God for His promises.

Isaiah 43:1-2 'But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, Nor shall the flame scorch you.'

1) We are _____ as we go through _____.

- Why do we suffer?
- Can it be avoided?
- Is God mad at me?
- Is it my fault?

These are all questions we may have, but first I want to ask you ---- are you suffering? Is there an area or multiple areas where you feel like you are suffering?

In life, we have two basic areas of happiness:

Human happiness and God's happiness also called joy.

2) Human happiness is _____ and _____.

3) God's happiness is _____ of anything in this _____.

So, one way of describing suffering is to say suffering comes from the loss of a detail of life ---- loss of human happiness.

Details of Life: Loved ones, friends, health, money, cars, jobs, possessions, or even our peace.

4) Suffering _____ be _____ completely!

In other words, we will all suffer at some point in time. Again, maybe you are suffering even right now. What is it that troubles you today?

5) Circle what applies:

Health Lost Relationship Broken Heart Job Friend Pet
Peace of Mind Property Car Loved One Marriage Failing or Lost
Social Life _____

You will notice that suffering almost always means the *loss of something*.

In fact, following Jesus means we will have to suffer loss in some way. That is why it is so hard to quit some things.

Philippians 3:7-11

Paul says he gladly suffers loss that he might gain even more suffering. Talk about a *glutton for punishment*. But that's a whole other topic – the Suffering of Christ!

Coming back to the suffering we endure

6) It is not a matter of _____ we will suffer, it is _____ will we _____!

One way is to know for certain what it says in **Romans 8:28** ---- '**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.** '

Our mental attitude is key. If we believe it is working for our benefit, we can endure it better.

7) Many of our _____ come in times of _____.

While this may be true, no suffering is enjoyable.

II Corinthians 7:5-11

So the idea here is that sometimes our suffering can bring about repentance because, let's admit..... much suffering is brought on by ourselves --- backsliding, addictions, poor choices in mates, sins of the tongue, guilt complex, *living as though we are not saved*, making decisions outside of the law!

Yet, there is also suffering undeserved... acts of God... loss of life... suffering brought on by others.

8) God still _____ this suffering for _____.

- Suffer for God's glory
- To comfort others
- Demonstrate God's power in grace
- Spiritual growth
- Keep down pride
- Show fruits of the Spirit.

It really does come down to "how do I think about it?" How are you thinking about it today? How can you change your decisions or thought process?

Whatever reason you suffer today, remember you are not alone.

My key verses and thoughts for you tonight are:

Philippians 4:11-13 Romans 8:28 Isaiah 43:1-2

Remember, God is with you!

Let's trust God as we ask for the strength to endure, to grow and to be at peace.

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