

RCMI L-Path Teaching
September 11, 2022

TITLE: SUFFERED (Someone Just Like Us)

BIG IDEA: Suffering is one of the great problems that grips the hearts of people. But there is hope in Jesus. He himself suffered and overcome. Same with us, as we trust in Him we will overcome when we go through sufferings.

VERSE: 1 Peter 4:12-19 (NLT)

12 Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. 13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.

14 If you are insulted because you bear the name of Christ, you will be blessed, for the glorious Spirit of God rests upon you. 15 If you suffer, however, it must not be for murder, stealing, making trouble, or prying into other people's affairs. 16 But it is no shame to suffer for being a Christian. Praise God for the privilege of being called by his name! 17 For the time has come for judgment, and it must begin with God's household. And if judgment begins with us, what terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God's Good News? 18 And also,

“If the righteous are barely saved,
what will happen to godless sinners?”

19 So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.

INTRODUCTION:

- Suffering is one of the great problems that grips the hearts of people.
- It brings pain, frustrations, anger, and uncertainty. The fact is, people do not want to suffer.
- When we start to suffer, confusion reigns while calmness fades. Questions arise while faith slowly subsides.
- Some crumbles at the mere thought of another pain or trial. Others rise to the occasion. Many are probably in between, waiting for what will happen.
- The book of 1st Peter focuses on the persecutions and suffering that Christians will encounter.
- Peter himself was a firsthand witness of the great suffering of Jesus Christ. He even denied Him three times after seeing the intense trial that Christ went through. He was afraid.
- But beyond the suffering of Jesus, Peter saw how He was able to overcome and be victorious.
- Jesus was the great example on how to endure and overcome trials.

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE ON SUFFERING:

1. **Don't be surprised, be ready.**
 - a. *v12 Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you.*
 - b. Suffering is not strange.
 - c. The reason why we have suffering is because we are still in a broken world.
 - d. We cannot do away with it. It is something we need to go through.

- e. Fiery trials mean “Burning”. Like Fire, it will test and purifies us.
 - i. *1 Peter 1:7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*
- f. Christian suffering has its purpose, and it’s not pain. It is to refine us, mold us, and strengthen us in our faith. It is a way to be better.
- g. Don’t be surprised, rather let us be ready.
 - i. *Ephesians 6:13-17 - 13 Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. 14 Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. 15 For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. 16 In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. 17 Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*
- h. Jesus Christ did not come unprepared. He was ready, that is why He was victorious.
- i. So do we. We should not be surprised but be ready. Bearing the full armor of God so we can overcome.

2. Be very glad, rejoice.

- a. *v13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.*
- b. Sometimes when we go through difficult situations in our life, we forget what joy truly means.
- c. Our joy becomes tears, sadness, distress. Which is understandable.
- d. But let us look how Jesus went through His suffering.
 - i. *Matthew 26:38-39 - 38 He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.” 39 He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, “My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”*
 - ii. *Luke 22:44 He prayed more fervently, and he was in such agony of spirit that his sweat fell to the ground like great drops of blood.*
 - iii. Jesus was in great agony, to the point of death. If there was another way, and easier way to save mankind, He would have taken that.
 - iv. How did Jesus endure the great suffering?
 - v. *Hebrews 12:2...**For the joy set before him** he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*
 - vi. In that terrible distress, Jesus was able to look beyond the suffering and found reasons for joy.
 - vii. He saw the many people that will be saved. He saw people worshipping God. He saw the Kingdom of God reigning here on earth.
 - viii. There was reason to rejoice. He saw that better picture.
- e. Peter saw it too. He remembered the Words that Jesus himself preached about suffering.
 - i. *Matthew 5:11-12 - 11 “**God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things***

against you because you are my followers. 12 Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

- f. As Christians, no matter what our sufferings are, there will always be a better end with Christ.
 - g. Our future with Christ is the great reason to rejoice!
- 3. Keep on doing what is right.**
- a. *v19 So if you are suffering in a manner that pleases God, keep on doing what is right, and trust your lives to the God who created you, for he will never fail you.*
 - b. Don't stop being a Christian when troubles arise.
 - c. Trust God, He will never fail you.
 - d. When suffering comes, the hardest thing to do is to continue.
 - e. But that is what we need to do.
 - i. Continue to put our faith in God
 - ii. Continue to pray
 - iii. Continue to read the Word
 - iv. Continue doing what is right
 - v. Continue going to Church, to our Bible study
 - vi. Continue doing the ministry
 - vii. Continue with God
 - f. Suffering is momentary. But the grace of God is permanent.
 - i. *1 Peter 5:12... My purpose in writing is to encourage you and assure you that what you are experiencing is truly part of God's grace for you. Stand firm in this grace.*
 - g. The grace of God will enable us to continue, we just need to stand firm. Continue doing what is right. Don't give up.
 - h. The way to overcome suffering is to continue with God.

CONCLUSION:

- If you are encountering trials right now. If you are suffering from it. Don't count your suffering. Trust that God can bring you to victory.
- Jesus is the great example of victory through suffering.
- He suffered for us, so we can have our victories.
- Trust Him that as we go through sufferings, there are sure victories.

DISCUSSION:

1. You may share your struggles that causes sufferings.
2. Pray and encourage one another in Christ.
3. Help one another to continue in our faith in God in spite of sufferings.