

A PERSPECTIVE ON SUFFERING

- Suffering is not a sign of spiritual failure.
- Suffering cannot always be avoided by better choices.
- Suffering can be an attack of the enemy (See Job)
- Suffering is not without purpose – it reveals the glory of God.
- Suffering is temporary – Joy is eternal!

1 Peter 4:12-13 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: ¹³But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

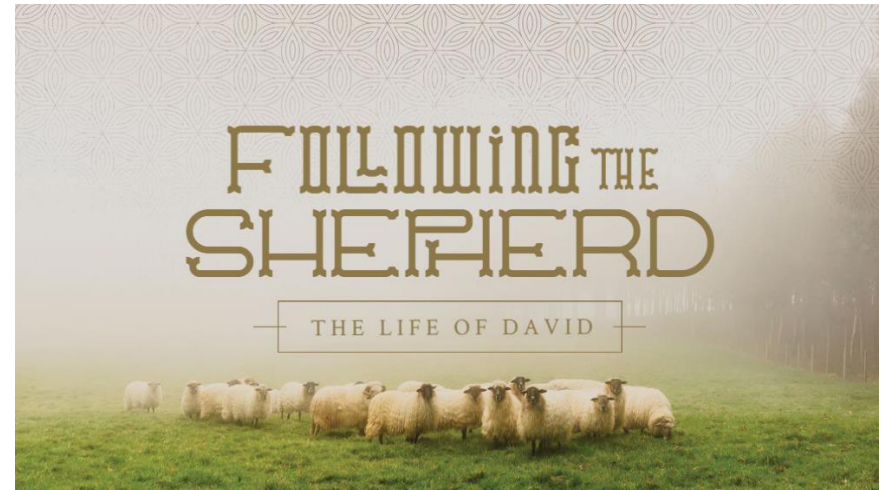
WE HAVE A SAVIOR WHO SUFFERED FOR US AND SUFFERS WITH US!

Hebrews 2:9-18 *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. ¹⁰For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings... ¹⁷Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*

To the Believer: Lean into Jesus in your time of need. Rest in His presence. Be assured of His Love!

To the Uncertain: The greatest tragedy would be to endure the hardships and sufferings of this life and then go into an eternity of suffering without Christ. Jesus took your suffering on the cross, will you receive Him by faith?

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*We often expect our journey of life to be a steady climb to greater mountain top experiences. The life of David teaches us that sometimes God leads us through green pastures and sometimes into the dark valleys. **Through it all, our Shepherd leads us, and His presences is constant.***

STUDY GUIDE – PSALM 23

Part 1 – Hearing His Voice... *The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Psalm 23:1-3*

Part 2 – The Valley of Darkness... *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me... Psalm 23:4*

Part 3 – The Table Prepared... *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Psalm 23:5*

Part 4 – Under The Rod... *thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Psalm 23:4*

Part 5 – Goodness and Mercy All The Days... *Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Psalm 23:6*

INTO THE DARKNESS

1 SAMUEL 18:5-30

DAVID'S RISE

1 Samuel 18:5-7

- Wisdom Reputation Success

Psalm 23 *"¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. ³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake..."*

- The paths of righteousness sometimes lead into a dark valley.

Psalm 23:4 *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me"*

- We Need A Proper Theology of Suffering.

Philippians 3:7-11 *"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."*

SAUL'S JEALOUSY

1 Samuel 18:8-13

- His Ego Bruised Position Threatened Rage Unleashed

Note: Saul is a psychological profile of a life destroyed by bitterness.

DAVID'S FAITHFULNESS

1 Samuel 18:14-16

- Wise Decisions Walking With God

But Spiritual Living Does Not Guarantee Favorable Circumstances.

SAUL'S SCHEMING

1 Samuel 18:17-25

Saul uses those close to him as tools of manipulation.

David responds with gracious respect.

GOD'S PROTECTING PRESENCE

1 Samuel 18:26-30

The greater David's faithfulness, the more opposition he faces.

Even David's enemies would see God's presence with him.