



## **“Suffering (Job Chapter 1)”**

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- One of God’s favorite teachers...suffering → text
  - Rich, wealthy, wife, 10 kids, materially wealthy, famous man of God  
-Job 1:8, “Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth, a man of complete integrity.”
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- Job 1: 16, 17, 18... “while He was still speaking”...4 messengers arrived one by one
    - 13-15...animals and farmhands
    - 16...sheep and shepherd
    - 17...camels and servants
    - 18...7 sons and 3 daughters
  - lost all but wife...God knows a man can’t make without his wife
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### **1) Builds our faith...builds our intimacy with God**

- As in life when two people go through a hard time together, like war, family problems, etc, so we grow more intimate with God during suffering
  - look through suffering to God...greater purpose
  - Hebrews 5:8, “Although He was a Son, He learned from the things which He suffered
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### **2) Catalyst to move our life forward**

- Gets our attention...shake things up...stay comfortable and in control
  - Acts 8:1, persecution scattered church → Acts 8:4, began preaching new areas
  - Release control which release our life forward →
  - My suffering time at Ridgepointe...circumstances overwhelming
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### **3) Breaks us**

-Job 1:20, “fell to the ground before God”

-areas we controlling...not even aware till suffering reveals it

-Psalm 102:23, “In the course of my life He broke my strength.”

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### **4) Suffering at times is our fault**

-unwise decisions, personal sins

-many times I made bad, sinful choices and suffered...my fault

-sins forgiven today

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### **5) Suffering at times is not our fault...suffer for sins of others**

-God not interfere with human will, and many times God will not interfere with the consequences of our sins and the sins others commit against us...doesn't seem fair but the way it is

-innocent people get hurt...girls in India forced into prostitution

-my testimony

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### **6) Suffering can bring real trauma**

-Job 2:13, “Then they sat on the ground with him for seven days and nights. And no one said a word, for they saw that his suffering was too great for words.” → friends most effective when said nothing, just listened

-my post traumatic stress...survival mode 14 years...hard to change

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### **7) Suffering teaches us to listen better**

a) Listen to God – Psalm 46:10, “Be still and know that I am God”

b) Listen to people

-wife said about husband, “he only listens when he is talking”

-our suffering teaches us to listen better to others who are suffering...not just fix them

-Proverbs 25:20, “Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda...rubbing salt in wound.”

-friend told me once, “Scott praise God you were sexually abused” →

-tried too hard to help...overspiritualizing it made me not talk...listen

-Proverbs 25:20, “Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda...rubbing salt in wound.”

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**Question: will we suffer with God or without → we can suffer with Jesus and Jesus will suffer with us**

a) Eric’s 1 year old girl die leukemia...turned to God, healed...adopting a little girl and then she got pregnant had another baby girl → **Jesus right there with them**

✓ Philippians 3:10, “I want to know Christ...and the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings.” → Jesus life, ministry and death real suffering...He can relate

-think about sufferings in your life

-How did you deal with the pain and suffering...suffering now?

-May be answers or not → will you trust the Lord even without an answer?

a) God’s greatest answers may come in unanswered questions...His silence may say more than answers ever could...perhaps we couldn’t handle some answers so His silence is an act of gentle love and mercy

b) Suffer with God means He is suffering with us, has best interests in mind, and will get us through it and the pain into good eventually

c) Suffer without God means suffer for the sake of suffering and chances are nothing positive will come out of it → waste

-Accept Jesus Christ...don’t let suffering be in vain

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## Lessons I've learned and am learning from suffering

1) OK to hurt

-John 11:35, "Jesus wept"

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2) Be real...realistic

-Matthew 26:39, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not as I will but your will be done"

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3) Settle into the silence...fighting it may extend suffering like at dentist

-Romans 5:3, "we know that suffering produces perseverance"

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4) Cry out to God...let it out

-Job 3:16, "Why was I not buried like a stillborn child, like a baby who never lives to see the light?"

-Psalm 57:2, "I will cry out to God Most High"

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5) Find God in the pain

-Romans 8:28, "and we know that God causes all things to work for good to those who love God"

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6) Pray for God to reveal all we need to learn

-Luke 2:26, "It had been revealed to him by the holy spirit" → revealed to Simeon he would see the Christ before he died...specific revelation

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7) Write/Journal

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8) Don't isolate

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9) Talk to trusted Christian friends...Counselor

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10) Resolve your will...decide to let God have his way

a) Job 13:15, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust him"

-“slay” in Hebrew, to cut off, to put to death

-“trust” means to wait...to have hope while I wait

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→ Last thing about suffering...it won't last forever!

- God restored Job's life...suffering not last forever → Job 42: 12, " So the Lord blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning." →

-even if doesn't remove suffering in this life...suffering will not be in heaven