

Use the Message Action Plan below to help put the things you learned this weekend into practice. If you missed last weekend's message, [Click Here](#) to listen to it online.

Three Resources to Face Suffering- September 4th 2016

Job 13:20-24; Job 14:7-17

Personal Story: For the past several weeks I seem to have been riddled with car problems and all sorts of other "fix it" problems. They've been wearing on me, but none of these issues are big, there just inconveniences to time and energy. I call them dealing with the gnats of life.

Last night I unexpectedly had to replace some brake parts on my car. I worked into the evening, and also this morning to finish the work. But as I was working last night, I fell victim to "feeling sorry" for myself for things not working out, I was convinced I would have to fix broken things forever. The "feeling" grew when I went in around 10 P.M. and attempted to hang a family clock that was just returned from two months repair in Los Angeles. The clock didn't work and to make matters worse, the workmanship was shoddy. I was disappointed and now feeling really sorry for myself.

I shouldn't be amazed at how easily I can stumble into that "life is against me" pity party. The opportunities to chose self-pity or leaving it in God's hands are all around us in every way.

Someone once said, "You want to make God laugh? Tell Him your plans." I think Job must have had the idea that his life shouldn't have gone upside down, but the apparent unfairness of the whole thing he had endured, gave way to something quite remarkable in Chapters 13 and 14. Something I believe we all need in this life of unknowns and things we can't control. *(Like cars and clocks to name a couple of very small things.)* [Job ends up wrestling his way to some pretty high ground in dealing with unfair suffering, and we all should take note.](#)

1. God's presence in a world of suffering.

Now summon me, and I will answer! Or let me speak to you, and you reply.

Job 13:22

Job says in verses 20-24, "I don't want to hide my face from you. I don't want you to turn away from me. Maybe I've sinned against you. If that's the case, I want it to be dealt with. I want to know you're not my enemy. I want to know you're with me."

In a nutshell Job is saying, *"I don't really need all of the answers if I know you're with me in it and walking with me through it."*

Action Step: Seek God with all that is you, most especially during seasons of suffering. Because like Job, you'll discover soon enough, that a life without God, is even harder when you're hurting.

2. Suffering Produces Glory

We're told everywhere in the Bible that glory and suffering go together.

"If you suffer, you are blessed, for the Spirit of Christ's glory rests on you," 1 Peter 4:14

"Our present sufferings are not worthy to even be compared to the glory that will be revealed in us," Romans 8:18

"Though outwardly we are wasting away, inwardly we're being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary afflictions are achieving for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison." 2 Corinthians 4:16,17

Furthermore the **Apostle Peter** reminds us:

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. ... But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.

1 Peter 2:19, 20b

20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it?

1 Peter 2:20a

22 "He (Jesus) committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats.

1 Peter 2:21-23a

Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

vs.23b

Action Step: To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

No need to add anything else to that is there.... you should follow in his steps.

3. The Resurrection

"But when people die, their strength is gone. They breathe their last, and then where are they? 11 As water evaporates from a lake and a river disappears in drought, 12 people are laid to rest and do not rise again. Until the heavens are no more, they will not wake up nor be roused from their sleep.

Job 14:10-12

"I wish you would hide me in the grave and forget me there until your anger has passed. But mark your calendar to think of me again!

Job 14:13

You would call and I would answer, and you would yearn for me, your handiwork.

Job 14:15

Long before the concept of resurrection was announced in the Bible, Job arrives at this concept of living again by God's power.

Action Step: No matter how sorrowful the outcome is on this side of life, you can **count on God** to one day call your name, and the names of all our loved one's who have trusted Christ for their eternal souls.

Apostle Paul writes: "Behold, I tell you a mystery," "We will not sleep, but we shall be changed in a flash, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. **(There's the call)** For the trumpet shall sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For when the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written shall come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:51-58