



Part 8: Walking Through Pain for Pleasure - Sacrifice

Acts 5:40-42

1. How do the following passages teach us to enjoy God (glorify God) through creation? **1 Timothy 4:4** and **James 1:17**. _____

 - a. Why is it essential to see the goodness of God's creation as we seek pleasure IN HIM at all times?

 - b. What happens when our desires are properly focused on God according to **Psalm 73:25**? _____

2. Read **Acts 5:40-42**. What happened to the apostles, and why is their response so strange? _____

 - a. If you're honest, do you believe it's possible for *you* to personally respond the way the apostles did? Why? _____

 - b. When **v. 41** says they were "counted" worthy to suffer..., it highlights God's *sovereign purpose* over what they're experiencing. Consider **Ephesians 1:11**. Why is this understanding crucial when we suffer?

 - c. Tell of a time when you experienced unexplainable happiness while going through a hardship. What lasting change did that experience leave on you? _____

 - d. What do the apostles do after being beaten and released according to **v. 42**? Why? _____

3. Read **Matthew 5:10-12**; **Mark 10:28-30**; **Hebrews 11:24-26**; **1 Peter 4:13-14** and explain why the apostles had *reason* to literally be happy for suffering for Jesus in **Acts 5:40-42**? _____

 - a. What truths do you need to stay focused on to rejoice when you suffer for Jesus? _____

b. Why does understanding how God intensifies our pleasures through sacrificing for Him motivate us to take godly risks to advance His kingdom? _____

c. How is God calling you to get out of your comfort zone and take risks for His glory? What steps do you need to take to be obedient? _____

4. Read **2 Corinthians 1:8-9**. How does suffering in general (not necessarily persecution for Jesus) serve to intensify our joy? Consider **James 4:8** and **Psalms 16:11**. _____

a. How is continuing to trust Jesus when life is falling apart suffering *for Christ* as well? _____

b. What does God promise in **James 1:2-4** and **Romans 5:3-4**? _____

c. In **2 Corinthians 6:10**, Paul says he was "...sorrowful, yet always rejoicing..." How have you seen this reality in your life as a Christian? _____

5. List some of the greatest sacrifices you've made for Jesus since you began following Him. Don't be shy – reflect on God's *grace* in your life here and write it down (**1 Corinthians 4:7**; **Philippians 2:13**). _____

a. Because of the *ultimate sacrifice* Jesus made for you on the cross, why is it true that you've never *truly* made a sacrifice for Jesus? _____

b. What sacrifices is God calling you to make to build up our church family at Mosaic Community? How? _____

c. What sacrifices is God calling you to make to reach out to the lost of Joliet and beyond? How? _____

d. Why should you be excited to make more sacrifices for Jesus? _____

e. What is your main take away from this teaching? _____
