Title: Try Me and See: Faith Refined Through the Fire of Trials

Sermon Summary: Drawing from Job 23:10, this sermon explores the relationship between suffering, faith, and divine refinement. The speaker addresses the reality of false accusations, the feeling of God's absence during trials, and the call to trust God even when he seems hidden. Using the imagery of gold being refined through fire, the sermon argues that trials are not punishments but purposeful processes designed by God to purify and strengthen genuine faith. The central invitation is for believers and seekers alike to "try" God -- to take him at his word and discover through personal experience that he is faithful, restorative, and more than able to bring his people through every season of suffering.

Key Points:
- Accusations are not proof of guilt, and believers must be careful not to treat social media or public opinion as truth
- Satan accused Job of only serving God because of his blessings, raising the question of whether we can praise God in hardship as well as in abundance
- We must learn to trust God without receiving an explanation for the heavenly events behind our suffering
- Although Job could not find God, he acknowledged that God was still working, reminding us that God's invisibility or silence does not mean he is absent
- Walking in darkness is not always a sign of sin or abandonment; sometimes it means God has recommended you for a season of refinement
- The refining process of gold serves as a metaphor for how trials progressively break us down, reduce us, and ultimately shape us into something of great value
- Tested faith is precious, and each trial prepares the believer for the next, building a track record of God's faithfulness
- The invitation to "try Jesus" is extended to all -- those suffering, those doubting, and those who have never known him

Scripture Reference:
- Job 23:10, which declares that God knows the path we take, and that after being tried we will come forth as gold
- Supporting references include Joel 2:25 on restoration, Revelation 12:10 on the accuser being cast down, Psalms 139:1-12 on the inescapability of God's presence, Isaiah 50:10 on trusting God in darkness, and 2 Timothy 4:8 on God as the righteous judge

Stories:
- The exoneration cases of Alexis Rodriguez, John Brandon Lamote, and CJ Rice are cited as real-world examples of false accusations and the long process of proving innocence, paralleling Job's desire to plead his case before a just God
- The accusations leveled against Jesus -- including claims about the temple, blasphemy, breaking the Sabbath, and treason -- are recounted to illustrate that even the sinless Son of God faced false charges

- The refining of gold is described in detail as a multi-stage process involving fire, reduction to powder, acid refinement, and finally molding, serving as the central metaphor for how God purifies believers through successive trials