

March 1, 2026

Series: Hope for a Hopeless World

Title: Is There a Purpose to Suffering?

Scripture: 1 Peter 3:13-17

Speaker: Pastor Ian Bonthron



We all suffer, but how we suffer matters.

1 Peter 3:10-12 ESV

10 For “Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; 11 let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. 12 For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

What do you do when your hope-filled _____ is met with humiliating _____?

1. Mitigate hostile responses by doing _____

1 Peter 3:13 ESV

13 Now who is there to harm you if you are **zealous** for what is good?

Matthew 7:3-5 ESV

3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.

How can I be good to them, because Jesus has been good to me?

God’s call to be good will _____ protect you.

2. Be _____ while suffering well, which will result in _____

1 Peter 3:14-16 ESV

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

1 Peter 2:19 ESV

19 For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly.

Matthew 5:20 ESV

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

1 Peter 3:14 ESV

14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled,

1 Peter 3:15-16 ESV

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, 16 having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

A. Point people to the _____, not just Jesus platitudes.

B. Sharing Jesus well takes _____.

C. Be _____ and _____.

D. Your _____ should match your _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 ESV

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

3. Know there is a divine _____ behind suffering well

1 Peter 3:17 ESV

17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

"I will suffer not just because we live in a fallen world or because we have an enemy who devours and destroys. We also will suffer because of God's zeal for the display of his own glory. He works so that things will be visible in us that are explainable only by his presence and power. He ordains hard things that we do not want to go through so that in us his power will be revealed. We were not created for our own comfort, pleasure, or glory. We were created to display the presence, power, and glory of the one who made us. God will not leave us alone in our suffering; he will meet us with his power and, through us, publicly display his glory." — Everyday Gospel: A Daily Devotional Connecting Scripture to All of Life by Paul David Tripp <https://a.co/23wtmwS>

God will use your suffering to _____ others to _____ .

Will you let Him?

3/1/26

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Group Questions:

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