



**Compassionately Responding  
to People Suffering with Life Issues**

# Overview

- Life Issues
- Suffering
- Worldview of Suffering
- Jesus' Suffering
- Scriptural view of Suffering
- Compassion
- Jesus Moved by Compassion
- Compassionate Response to Suffering

# Life Issues

- Marriage
- Fertility
- Birth
- Adoption
- Disability
- End-of-Life



# Suffering

- **Suffering in body, mind, and spirit**
- **When?**
  - Since the Fall into sin
  - According to God's will (Job 1:9-11)
- **Why do Christians suffer?**
  - Worldview of suffering
  - Scriptural view of Christian suffering

# Worldview of Suffering

- **Misperception of suffering**
- **Based on what you do and how you feel**
  - Think, choose, act
- **Results**
  - Immediate avoidance = greater long-term suffering
  - Self-sacrifice = taking on unnecessary burden
  - Hinder God's plan for suffering
  - Suffering becomes purposeless
  - Helpless and hopeless – Satan's goal

# **Jesus' Suffering**

- **Physical suffering**
  - By His wounds/stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5)
  - Crucifixion (Matthew 26; Mark 15, Luke 23)
- **Mental and emotional suffering**
  - Mocking (Psalm 22:6-8)
  - Despising shame (Hebrews 12:2)
  - Abandoned by friends (Mark 14:50-72)
- **Spiritual suffering**
  - Stricken, smitten, and afflicted (Isaiah 53:4)
  - Abandoned by God (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34)

# Christian Suffering

- **We are intended to suffer**
  - To be conformed to image of Christ (Romans 8:29)
  - Suffering given as a gift (Philippians 1:29-30)
- **It is the Lord's will**
  - Pick up your cross and follow me (Luke 9:23; Mark 8:34)
  - Take my yoke and learn from me (Matthew 11:29)
  - Suffer because our Lord suffered (1 Corinthians 15:49)
- **God, hidden in the opposites, is nearer to us**
  - Jesus' death brings mankind life (John 12:24-26)
  - He is with us in trouble and will deliver us (Psalm 91:15)
  - Hidden for a moment and then gathers us with great mercies (Isaiah 54:7-10)

# Christian Suffering

- **God's love is revealed**
  - Ultimate love in the death of His Son (John 3:16-17)
  - Discipline for those He loves (Hebrews 12:6-8; Revelations 3:19)
  - All works together for the good (Romans 8:28)
- **Orients us to the Word and cross of Jesus**
  - Leads us to prayer (Isaiah 26:16)
  - Ongoing for eternal life (Hebrews 13:12-14)
  - Makes us dependent on God (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

# Christian Suffering

- **For our Christian development**
  - Prepare us for the greater glory (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
  - Yields peaceful fruit of righteousness (Hebrews 12:11)
  - Reveals sin (1 Corinthians 11:30-32; Jeremiah 30:11)
  - Testing our faith (James 1:2-12)
- **We are encouraged in the battle against Satan**
  - Confident Satan cannot harm us eternally (Matthew 10:28-30)
  - God is for me, who can be against me (Romans 8:31-32)

# How Christians Suffer

- **In many ways** (2 Corinthians 4:8-9)
- **Suffering is normal** (1 Peter 4:12)
- **Suffering is never too severe**
  - You will not be overtaken (1 Corinthians 10:13)
  - Hope removes shame and guilt (Romans 5:5)
  - Prayer delivers relief (Psalm 50:15)
  - Faith in God's purpose and His love, not the circumstances (Job 13:15)
- **Rejoice in suffering**
  - Joy and blessing in suffering (1 Peter 4:13-14)
  - Spiritual contentment (Philippians 4:11-13)
  - Martyred for His namesake (Acts 5:41)

# Compassion

- **Greek – *splagchnizomai* (splangkh-nid'-zom-ahee)**
  - To be moved by the inward parts
- **Movement by compulsion**
- **Not an act by human nature** (Romans 3:9-18)
- **Lord acting through us**

# **Jesus Moved by Compassion**

- **Harassed and helpless without a shepherd** (Matthew 9:36)
- **Healing**
  - Diseases and afflictions (Matthew 14:14; Mark 6:34);
  - Blind men (Matthew 20:34)
  - Cleansed the leper (Mark 1:41)
- **Feeds the masses** (Matthew 15:32; Mark 8:2)
- **Casts out demons**
  - Boy with seizures (Mark 9:22)
- **Restores life**
  - Widow's son (Luke 7:13)

# Compassionate Response to Suffering

- **Do not explain suffering** (Job 11:7-8)
- **Act as ambassadors of Christ** (2 Corinthians 5:20-21)
- **Speak about suffering in Truth and Love** (2 Timothy 4:2)
- **Strengthen dependence on Christ**
  - Bear one another's burdens (Galatians 6:1-2)
  - Daily repentance and renewal through forgiveness of sins (James 5:14-16)
  - Prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- **Be prepared to share the reason for your Hope** (1 Peter 3:14-16)

# Questions

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