

Sunday Sermon | Calvary Chapel Waterford
Pastors Conference Reflections Outline
Pastor Tom Zimbelman

Theme: Pastors Conference Reflections

I. The Call Is Costly but Worth It - 1 Peter 5:1-4

- *Shepherd willingly - Lead by example*
- *Love Jesus first*
- *Restoration fuels ministry*

II. Brokenness Produces Dependence - 2 Corinthians 12:2-10

- *Thorns humble us*
- *Weakness deepens faith*
- *Christ's strength shines in weakness*

III. God's Plans Are Greater - 2 Samuel 7:1-9

- *Good desires are not always God's assignment*
- *God values obedience over buildings*
- *Contentment matters*

IV. Fiery Trials Are Normal - 1 Peter 4:12-19

- *Beloved people still suffer*
- *Trials refine faith*
- *Suffering draws us closer to Christ*

V. Following Jesus Is the Reward - Matthew 19:16-20:16

- *Salvation cannot be earned*
- *Jesus must be first*
- *Ministry is undeserved grace*
- *Serving Christ is the privilege*

VI. Lose Your Life to Find It - Matthew 16:25

- *The Christian life costs something*
- *Christ is enough*
- *Tribulation is temporary*
- *Eternal glory outweighs earthly suffering*

Scripture Cross References (NKJV)

Pastors Conference Reflections

1 Peter 5:1-4: Peter exhorts church leaders to shepherd God's people willingly, humbly, and by example rather than for personal gain or control. Faithful shepherds serve under Christ, the Chief Shepherd, and await an eternal reward from Him.

2 Corinthians 12:2-10: Paul describes profound spiritual revelations alongside a painful "thorn in the flesh" that kept him humble and dependent on God's grace. Through weakness and suffering, Christ's strength is displayed most clearly.

2 Samuel 7:1-9: David desires to build a permanent house for God, but the Lord reminds him that His plans are greater than David's ambitions. God's purposes are centered not on earthly structures, but on His eternal covenant and kingdom.

1 Peter 4:12-19: Believers are told not to be surprised by suffering and fiery trials, but to rejoice in sharing in Christ's sufferings. Those who suffer according to God's will are called to trust Him faithfully and continue doing good.

Matthew 19:16-20:16: Jesus confronts the rich young ruler about surrender and discipleship, then teaches through the parable of the laborers that God's grace is not earned or deserved. The true reward of following Christ is Christ Himself.

Matthew 16:25: Jesus teaches that whoever seeks to preserve his own life apart from God will ultimately lose it, but whoever surrenders his life for Christ's sake will find true life. Discipleship requires sacrifice, but leads to eternal gain.