

NOTES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

NOT THERE YET

SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon uses the familiar question, "Are we there yet?" as a picture of the Christian life, acknowledging that suffering can make us lose sight of the hope God has promised. Looking at Genesis 3, it explains that suffering entered the world through sin, but God's response was never abandonment—He pursued humanity with love and immediately promised a Savior in Jesus. The message concludes by encouraging believers that although we're "not there yet," we can remain hopeful by honestly bringing our pain to God, grounding ourselves in His Word, and looking for evidence of His goodness while we wait for the day He makes all things new.

KEY POINTS

1. Suffering is the result of a broken world, not the absence of a good God.
 - Through Genesis 3, the sermon teaches that pain entered creation because of sin, not because God stopped being loving or good. Sin fractured our relationship with God, with others, and with creation itself.
2. The enemy's first strategy is to make us doubt God's goodness.
 - Before Adam and Eve sinned, the serpent first caused them to question God's character: "Did God really say...?" The sermon emphasizes that our greatest spiritual battles often begin with doubting whether God is truly good, especially in seasons of suffering.
3. God pursues us with grace instead of abandoning us in our shame.
 - When Adam and Eve hid, God asked, "Where are you?" not because He didn't know where they were, but because He was inviting them out of hiding and back into relationship. God's love is greater than our failures, shame, and mistakes.
4. Jesus is God's answer to our suffering and our hope for redemption.
 - From Genesis 3:15 onward, God promised a Savior who would defeat sin and Satan. Jesus entered our suffering, endured the cross, and secured victory, proving that suffering, sin, and death do not get the final word.
5. We're not there yet—but we can live with hope while we wait.

- Until Christ makes all things new, believers are called to honestly bring their pain to God, anchor themselves in His Word, and intentionally recognize His goodness. Even in the middle of suffering, we can endure because we know something better is ahead.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What area of your life feels like you're asking, "Are we there yet?" How has that season of waiting affected your faith?**
2. **Have you ever found yourself questioning God's goodness because of your circumstances? What helped—or could help—you trust Him again?**
3. **If God asked you today, "Where are you?" how would you honestly answer?**
4. **How does knowing that Jesus entered into our suffering change the way you view your own pain or unanswered questions?**
5. **What is one way you've seen God's goodness recently, even if you're still waiting for your situation to change?**