

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. AND WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM. HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF A SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF THAT SCRIPTURE. TODAY, WE'LL BE LOOKING AT LUKE 13:1-5, A PASSAGE WHERE JESUS TALKS ABOUT SOME TRAGEDIES THAT WERE NEWS IN HIS DAY. SO GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO LUKE 13. I'LL MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, WE HEAD TO THE WORKSHOP WHERE TROY SPRADLIN IS GOING TO BE REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT POLITE PERSECUTION. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT HOW TO BE MISERABLE. JOE GUY BRINGS SOME TRUTHS FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT AS HE HELPS US TO FIND SOMETHING IN SUFFERING. IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE JEWS PICKED JESUS INSTEAD OF BARABBAS? WE'RE TALKING ABOUT SUFFERING IN THIS EPISODE, AND I HOPE YOU'RE GOING TO STAY WITH US. I ALSO HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO LUKE 13, WHERE WE READ BEGINNING AT VERSE 1, THERE WERE PRESENT AT THAT SEASON SOME WHO TOLD HIM ABOUT THE GALILEANS WHOSE BLOOD PILATE HAD MINGLED WITH THEIR SACRIFICES. JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT THESE GALILEANS WERE WORSE SINNERS THAN ALL OTHER GALILEANS, BECAUSE THEY SUFFERED SUCH THINGS? I TELL YOU, NO; BUT UNLESS YOU REPENT YOU WILL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH. OR THOSE EIGHTEEN ON WHOM THE TOWER OF SILOAM FELL AND KILLED THEM, DO YOU THINK THAT THEY WERE WORSE SINNERS THAN ALL THE OTHER MEN WHO DWELT IN JERUSALEM? I TELL YOU, NO; BUT UNLESS YOU REPENT YOU WILL ALL LIKEWISE PERISH.

>> (SINGING)

>> MAN HAS ALWAYS SOUGHT TO FIND SOME MEANING IN SUFFERING. THE BOOK OF JOB IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SHOWS THE THOUGHTS OF JOB'S FRIENDS, AND IT ENDS WITH GOD'S THOUGHTS ON THAT MATTER. BUT THE JEWS, EVEN WITH THAT BOOK, STILL HAD MANY PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ON THE SUBJECT OF SUFFERING. JESUS BRINGS UP A RECENT SLAUGHTER OF JEWS THAT WERE FROM GALILEE THAT HAPPENED. YOU SEE, PONTIUS PILATE, WHO WAS GOVERNOR, WAS VERY NERVOUS ABOUT AN UPRISING AMONG THE JEWS. DEUTERONOMY 16:16 COMMANDED THAT ALL JEWISH MEN WERE TO BE IN JERUSALEM THREE TIMES A YEAR; AND THAT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE TIME THAT PILATE FELT AT GREAT RISK THAT THE JEWS WOULD HAVE AN UPRISING. JOSEPHUS, WHO WAS A NON-INSPIRED HISTORIAN, RECORDS SEVERAL DIFFERENT TIMES WHEN PILATE KILLED JEWS DURING THEIR FESTIVALS. YOU SEE, THESE DAYS WERE DAYS OF GREAT VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED. THE JEWS IN JUDEA LOOKED DOWN UPON THOSE IN GALILEE. THEY THOUGHT THEY WERE SUPERIOR. THEY HAD SOME PREJUDICE THERE; THEREFORE, THEY THOUGHT THE SLAUGHTER MUST HAVE HAPPENED BECAUSE THEY WERE WORSE SINNERS THAN ANYONE ELSE. THEY WERE BLINDED BY THEIR PREJUDICE. BUT JESUS, IN OUR TEXT, HE WAS CLEAR. WHAT HAPPENED TO THESE PEOPLE WAS NOT A DIRECT RESULT OF THEIR SIN. IT WASN'T A

PUNISHMENT FOR ANY SPECIFIC SIN. IT JUST HAPPENED. SOMETIMES BAD THINGS JUST HAPPEN TO PEOPLE. YOU SEE, TRAGEDIES AND BLOODSHED, THEY'RE NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS. THEY WILL HAPPEN TO ANYBODY. BUT WE CAN STILL LEARN FROM THINGS THAT HAPPEN. SOMETIMES WE LEARN WHAT NOT TO DO. SOMETIMES WE NEED TO CONSIDER OURSELVES WARNED BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM COULD HAPPEN TO US. AND JESUS TOOK THAT AND SAID, UNLESS YOU REPENT. HE'S NOT SAYING IF YOU DON'T REPENT THAT A TOWER IS GOING TO FALL ON YOU OR PILATE'S GOING TO SLAUGHTER YOU, BUT HE'S SAYING YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME CONSEQUENCES OF THAT. NOW, THERE WAS GOING TO BE A SLAUGHTER IN JERUSALEM IN AD70. THE PEOPLE WHO REJECTED THE MESSIAH, THEY WERE BEING PUNISHED BECAUSE OF THEIR REJECTION. JESUS TALKED ABOUT THAT IN MATTHEW CHAPTER 23 AND 24. TITUS'S ARMY BESIEGED THE CITY, AND WHEN THEY ATTACKED, THE SLAUGHTER WAS ONE OF THE WORST IN ALL OF HISTORY. BUT THE CHRISTIANS, THEY HEADED JESUS' WARNINGS IN MATTHEW 24:4-35. THERE WERE SIGNS THAT THE PEOPLE COULD SEE THAT JERUSALEM WAS GOING TO BE DESTROYED, AND THEY GOT OUT OF TOWN. BUT YOU SEE, IF THOSE JEWS DIDN'T CHANGE THEIR HEARTS, REPENT OF THEIR REJECTION OF THE MESSIAH, THEY WERE GOING TO SUFFER A SIMILAR FATE. JESUS ALSO BRINGS UP ANOTHER TRAGEDY, THE TOWER OF SILOAM THAT COLLAPSED ON 18 PEOPLE. IT WASN'T TO PUNISH THEM FOR ANY PARTICULAR SIN. SOMETIMES BAD THINGS JUST HAPPEN. YOU SEE, LIFE WAS NEVER MEANT TO BE PERMANENT. ONE TRAGEDY, THE ONE WHERE PILATE SLAUGHTERED THOSE GALILEANS, WAS DIRECTLY CAUSED BY MAN; THE OTHER WAS CAUSED BY GRAVITY. BUT NO MATTER WHAT THE CAUSE, THESE THINGS ALL SERVE AS REMINDERS THAT LIFE IS SHORT AND WE NEED TO KEEP ETERNITY IN FOCUS. YOU SEE, JESUS IN OUR TEXT MAKES THE APPLICATION FOR US HIMSELF. WE NEED TO REPENT. ACTS 17:30, HE CALLS ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENTANCE. YOU SEE, A PHYSICAL DEATH IS NOTHING COMPARED TO ETERNAL DEATH. AND PHYSICAL DEATH REMINDS US OF OUR MORTALITY. THE SLAUGHTER AND TRAGEDY THAT HAPPEN SHOULD HELP US STAY FOCUSED ON WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT. YOU SEE, HE WANTS REPENTANCE; AND THAT REPENTANCE COMES FROM GODLY SORROW, BEING SORRY THAT OUR ACTIONS HURT GOD. IF IT'S JUST SORRY THAT WE GOT CAUGHT, THAT'S THE SORROW OF THE WORLD, AND THAT PRODUCES DEATH, 2ND CORINTHIANS 7:9-10. WE NEED TO KEEP THAT ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE. AND THROUGH REPENTANCE COMES SALVATION, JUST LIKE PETER SAID AFTER THAT SERMON THAT HE PREACHED IN ACTS CHAPTER 2. WHEN HE COMPLETED THAT LESSON, THE PEOPLE WERE CUT TO THE HEART AND SAID TO PETER AND THE REST OF THE APOSTLES, MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO? ACTS 2:38, PETER SAID TO THEM, REPENT, AND LET EVERY ONE OF YOU BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE REMISSION OF SINS. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. WELL, IT'S TIME TO HEAD TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN IS WORKING ON REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING. TODAY HIS SUBJECT IS POLITE PERSECUTION.

>> WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME WHEN IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY POPULAR FOR CHRISTIANS TO BE RIDICULED ON THE PUBLIC STAGE AND WITHOUT CONSEQUENCE. YOU SEE, IN THE PAST, THERE WAS ALWAYS THIS SENSE OF RESPECT FOR ONE'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, EVEN BY THOSE WHO WEREN'T RELIGIOUS THEMSELVES. IF YOU SAID ANYTHING NEGATIVE ABOUT CHRISTIANITY OR ANY RELIGION, FOR THAT MATTER, IT WAS MET WITH DISAPPROVAL BY THOSE IN OUR SOCIETY AND IT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE BAD TASTE. WELL, THERE WAS THIS MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR TENETS UPON WHICH

AMERICA WAS FOUNDED WAS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ALL; SO NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SPIRITUAL BELIEFS MIGHT BE, YOU COULD LIVE AND PRACTICE YOUR RELIGION IN PEACE WITHIN THE UNITED STATES. BUT NOW, NO LONGER DO THE MAJORITY HOLD SUCH RESPECT FOR PEOPLE OF THE BOOK. WHILE IT'S STILL CONSIDERED TO BE TABOO TO DISPARAGE OR RIDICULE SOME RELIGIONS, CHRISTIANITY HAS INCREASINGLY BECOME FAIR GAME FOR DERISION AMONG PEOPLE LIKE CELEBRITIES AND MAINSTREAM MEDIA, THE TWITTER-ATI AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS. IN FACT, THERE WAS AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN TIME MAGAZINE IN 2016 THAT WAS TITLED, REGULAR CHRISTIANS ARE NO LONGER WELCOME IN AMERICAN CULTURE. AND IT ACKNOWLEDGED THIS CULTURAL SHIFT THAT'S TAKING PLACE AND SHOWING THAT IT WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE. THERE'S ALSO MANY STUDIES THAT HAVE BEEN DONE BY THE BARNA GROUP AND THE PEW RESEARCH THAT SAY CHRISTIANS HAVE BECOME MORE FEARFUL OF EXPRESSING THEIR BELIEFS FOR FEAR OF RETALIATION. AND THIS ENTIRE SENTIMENT THAT IS HAPPENING TO CHRISTIANS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN COINED POLITE PERSECUTION; AND THAT IS A RATHER APPROPRIATE DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO CHRISTIANS TODAY. NOW, BEFORE WE GO ANY FURTHER, LET'S BE CLEAR ABOUT ONE THING: WE CHRISTIANS THAT LIVE IN THIS COUNTRY TODAY AND WHAT WE'RE EXPERIENCING IS BY NO MEANS WHAT OUR BROTHERS OF THE FIRST CENTURY EXPERIENCED BACK IN THEIR TIME. YOU SEE, BACK THEN - AND THERE'S BEEN A FEW OTHERS SINCE THEN - THEY WERE SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL HARASSMENT, TO FALSE IMPRISONMENT, AND EVEN THE PENALTY OF DEATH FOR A SENSELESS AMOUNT OF ACCUSATIONS AND PREJUDICE AGAINST THEIR FAITH. THOSE OF US WHO CURRENTLY LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT FACED WITH SUCH ATROCIOUS OPPRESSION; BUT WE'RE RAPIDLY HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION IF WE'RE NOT CAREFUL. AND EVEN OUR FIRST-CENTURY BROTHERS EXPERIENCED POLITE PERSECUTION BEFORE FULL-ON PERSECUTION WAS IMPOSED UPON THEM. SO WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN TO DO WITH ALL OF THIS? WELL, LET'S REPAIR OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS BY FIRST ACKNOWLEDGING THE WARNING OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR THAT HE GAVE TO HIS DISCIPLES. HE SAID THAT IF PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD HATE YOU, JUST REMEMBER THAT THEY HATED ME FIRST IN JOHN 15:18. WE WERE NEVER PROMISED A TROUBLE-FREE LIFE WHEN WE BECAME A DISCIPLE. IN FACT, JUST THE OPPOSITE. PAUL WROTE, ALL WHO DESIRE TO LIVE GODLY IN CHRIST JESUS WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION, SAYS 2ND TIMOTHY 3:12. SO BROTHERS, WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT WE LIVE IN A DARK AND FALLEN WORLD AND EVIL ABOUNDS IN ALL FORMS. AND SO WE'RE NOT IMMUNE TO SATAN'S ATTACKS. AND WHILE HE'S STILL ACTIVE IN THIS WORLD, THE CHURCH WILL SUFFER PERSECUTION UNTIL THE LORD RETURNS. NOW, SECONDLY, WE NEED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE CHRISTIANS FIRST AND THEN AMERICANS. YOU SEE, OUR LOYALTY LAY FIRST WITH OUR GOD AND FATHER IN HEAVEN. AND WHILE OUR PHYSICAL BODIES MAY BE CITIZENS OF THIS EARTHLY NATION, OUR HEARTS AND OUR SOULS HAVE A CITIZENSHIP IN HEAVEN ACCORDING TO PHILIPPIANS 3:20. AND THAT MEANS THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO US OR TO THE UNITED STATES, OUR FIRST PRIORITY AND OUR ALLEGIANCE IS TO GOD. SO WHEN PETER AND OTHER APOSTLES WERE THREATENED WITH PERSECUTION, THEY REPLIED, WE OUGHT TO OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN. AND THEN LATER, THEY WERE EVEN REJOICING THAT THEY WERE COUNTED WORTHY TO SUFFER SHAME FOR HIS NAME IN ACTS 5:29 AND 41. SO IF OUR NATION'S LEADER TURNED ON US, WELL, WE JUST NEED TO BE READY TO STAND FIRM IN OUR FAITH. NOW, THIRDLY, WE NEED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, MATTHEW 28:19-20. AND THAT IS SIMPLY THE GOOD NEWS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN WHO'S HAD A GREATER

IMPACT ON THE WORLD THAN ANYBODY OR ANYONE EVER HAS BEFORE OR CURRENTLY DOES OR EVER WILL IN THE FUTURE. YOU SEE, THE GOSPEL HAS THE POWER OF GOD WITHIN ITS MESSAGE, SAYS ROMANS 1:16, WHICH IS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO COMPLETELY TRANSFORM THE MOST EVIL OF HEARTS. SO IN THE END, IF WE WANT TO STOP THIS POLITE PERSECUTION IN ITS TRACKS, WELL, WE MUST START BY TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS.

>> BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS' SAKE, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, MATTHEW 5:10. THANKS, TROY. NOW GRAB SOME PAPER AND SOMETHING TO WRITE WITH, AND YOU CAN WRITE DOWN OUR CONTACT INFORMATION. IF YOU HAVEN'T ENROLLED IN OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE, CONTACT US AND GET STARTED. REMEMBER, EVERYTHING WE DO IS ALWAYS FREE OF CHARGE. WE WON'T TRY TO SELL YOU ANYTHING AND WE WON'T PESTER YOU WITH SOLICITATIONS. JIM DEARMAN IS GOING TO JOIN US AFTER THIS FREE OFFER.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> AND WHEN WE SAY FREE, WE MEAN FREE. NO SHIPPING AND HANDLING OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. YOU CAN ENJOY TRUTH.FM. IT'S GOT A CHANNEL THAT'S DEDICATED TO GOOD NEWS TODAY. IN ADDITION, THEY HAVE OTHER CHANNELS THAT ALL CONTAIN EXCELLENT BIBLE TEACHING. GIVE IT A LISTEN AT WWW.TRUTH.FM. NOW HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT HOW TO BE MISERABLE.

>> TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO LOOK AT HOW TO BE MISERABLE IN 20 EASY STEPS. 1, USE I AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE. 2, ALWAYS BE SENSITIVE TO SLEIGHTS. 3, BE JEALOUS AND ENVIOUS. 4, THINK ONLY ABOUT YOURSELF. 5, TALK ONLY ABOUT YOURSELF. 6, TRUST NO ONE. 7, NEVER FORGET A CRITICISM. 8, ALWAYS EXPECT TO BE APPRECIATED. 9, BE SUSPICIOUS. 10, LISTEN GREEDILY TO WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT YOU. 11, ALWAYS LOOK FOR FAULTS IN OTHERS. 12, DO AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE FOR OTHERS. 13, SHIRK YOUR DUTIES IF YOU CAN. 14, NEVER FORGET A SERVICE YOU MAY HAVE RENDERED. 15, SULK IF PEOPLE ARE NOT GRATEFUL FOR YOUR FAVORS. 16, INSIST ON CONSIDERATION AND RESPECT. 17, DEMAND AGREEMENT WITH YOUR OWN VIEWS ON EVERYTHING. 18, ALWAYS LOOK FOR A GOOD TIME. 19, LOVE YOURSELF FIRST. AND 20, BE SELFISH AT ALL TIMES. THIS FORMULA IS GUARANTEED TO WORK. HERE'S A MUCH BETTER ONE. LET EACH OF YOU LOOK NOT ONLY FOR HIS OWN INTERESTS, BUT ALSO FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS, PHILIPPIANS 2:4.

>> THANKS FOR THAT, JIM. IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO WRITE ALL 20 STEPS DOWN, THERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU CAN GET THAT INFORMATION. YOU CAN LISTEN TO IT AGAIN IN THE PODCAST, SOUND WORDS WITH JIM DEARMAN. YOU CAN SEE IT ON THE TRANSCRIPT THAT'S AVAILABLE ON BOTH OUR WEBSITE AND OUR APPS. JUST PULL UP TODAY'S EPISODE, PRESS THE BUTTON THAT SAYS NOTES,

AND THE TRANSCRIPT WILL COME RIGHT UP FOR YOU. YOU CAN ALSO LISTEN AGAIN IN OUR TV APPS, FACEBOOK, OR ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL. WE TRY TO MAKE OUR MATERIAL AVAILABLE IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS AND FORMATS FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE. JOE GUY IS CONVENIENTLY WAITING FOR US ON THE PASTIME PORCH, AND HE'S ENCOURAGING US TO FIND SOMETHING IN SUFFERING.

>> WELL, HELLO. THANKS FOR STOPPING BY. YOU KNOW, I DISTINCTLY REMEMBER HOW MUCH I USED TO HATE FOOTBALL PRACTICE IN HIGH SCHOOL. EVEN THROUGH LITTLE LEAGUE ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL, I HATED THE HEAT, THE WORK, ESPECIALLY THE 40-YARD SPRINTS AFTER PRACTICE. I WOULD OFTEN TRY TO FIND WAYS TO AVOID PRACTICE, BUT I WAS RARELY SUCCESSFUL, SINCE MY DAD MADE SURE THAT I WAS THERE FULFILLING MY ROLE ON THE TEAM. BUT WHEN GAME TIME ROLLED AROUND, ALL THAT HEAT AND SWEAT, THE COACHES YELLING, AND EVEN THE SPRINTS WERE WORTH IT. I KNEW THE PLAYS, I KNEW MY RESPONSIBILITIES, AND I FOUND I COULD ACTUALLY DO MORE AND PERFORM BETTER THAN I EVEN REALIZED. NOW, I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF MY TIME WITH MY TEAMMATES AND COACHES. AND ALL THOSE YEARS OF HARD, UNCOMFORTABLE WORK, WELL, IT WAS WORTH IT. WE FORGET SOMETIMES THAT TOUGH TIMES, HARD WORK, AND EVEN SUFFERING ACTUALLY MAKES US BETTER. A LOT OF PEOPLE TRY TO AVOID HARD WORK OR TAKING A COURAGEOUS STAND AND JUST TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT. THAT'S WHAT PETER DID WHEN HE DENIED CHRIST. HE TRIED TO AVOID THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVEN BEING ON JESUS' SIDE, FLAT DENYING THAT HE EVEN KNEW HIM AT ALL. BUT WHEN JESUS LOOKED AT HIM FROM ACROSS THE HIGH PRIEST'S COURTYARD IN LUKE 22:61-62, PETER KNEW HOW BAD HE HAD FAILED. SO IT'S INTERESTING, IT'S PETER HIMSELF, A MAN WHO ONCE TOOK THE EASY WAY OUT TO AVOID SUFFERING, TO ENCOURAGE BEING STRONG AS HE DOES IN 1ST PETER 1:6-9, HE SAYS THAT WE SHOULD REJOICE IF WE SUFFER FOR A LITTLE WHILE, IF WE'RE SUFFERING FOR BEING FAITHFUL, BECAUSE HE SAYS, SUFFERING HAS A POINT. IT TESTS OUR FAITH LIKE GOLD BEING MADE PURE BY FIRE. SUFFERING GIVES FAITH STRENGTH AND MAKES IT GENUINE, AS WE SEE IN PSALMS 139:22-24 AND IN JAMES 1:2. YOU MAY KNOW THAT THE NAVY SEALS TRAIN ON A CONCEPT OF 40 PERCENT. THEY SAY THAT WHEN A PERSON FEELS LIKE THEY HAVE GIVEN ALL THEY CAN PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY GIVE, THEY ACTUALLY HAVE ONLY USED UP 40 PERCENT OF THEIR STRENGTH. WE STILL HAVE 60 PERCENT OF OUR ABILITY REMAINING. SO WHEN WE ENDURE SUFFERING THROUGH PROBLEMS, WE OFTEN FIND THAT LIKE GOLD PURIFIED BY FIRE, WE'RE STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT WE WERE, LIKE IN 1ST CORINTHIANS 10:13. AND WE HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF CHRIST GIVEN IN MATTHEW 5:44 AND 1ST CORINTHIANS 4:12-13. PETER SAYS IN CHAPTER 1, VERSE 9, FOCUS ON THE END OF YOUR FAITH, THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS. PETER HAD MADE THE MISTAKE OF TRYING TO TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT, AND HE PERSONALLY KNEW THE FAILURE OF DOING SO. HE MORE THAN MOST UNDERSTOOD THE VALUE OF ENDURING TROUBLES AND FOCUSING ON HIS SALVATION OVER ANY OTHER DIFFICULTY FACING HIM. FRIENDS, DIFFICULTIES WILL COME; WE JUST HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES, WHAT ARE WE FOCUSED ON? THERE'S SO MUCH ENCOURAGEMENT IN THE TIMELESS TEXT OF THE BIBLE. LET'S USE IT TO MAKE OURSELVES STRONGER. I'M JOE GUY. THANK YOU FOR VISITING.

>> SUFFERING CAN BE GOOD FOR US. THANKS, JOE. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO ANTHONY AND TROY.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THE JEWS FREED JESUS INSTEAD OF BARABAS?

>> OUR QUESTION FOR TODAY IS, WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF THEY PICKED BARABBAS INSTEAD OF JESUS?

>> WOW, WHAT A FASCINATING QUESTION AND AN INTERESTING QUESTION. SO I THINK I CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION REAL QUICKLY, FROM A BIBLE POINT OF VIEW IS, THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED.

>> PRETTY MUCH, RIGHT? IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BOBBY INSTEAD OF BARABBAS.

>> BOBBY INSTEAD OF BARABBAS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMEBODY.

>> JUST COME TO THAT CONCLUSION. WHY? WHY WOULD WE SAY THAT? BECAUSE OF THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD.

>> AMEN. THAT'S EXACTLY IT.

>> BECAUSE OF THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD. HIS WILL IS GOING TO BE DONE. AND IT WAS THE FATHER'S PLAN, IT'S HIS WILL THAT JESUS GOES TO THE CROSS. LUKE 22:42, JESUS ASKS, HE SAYS, IF IT BE THY WILL. YOUR WILL WILL BE DONE, NOT MINE. SO GOD'S WILL WILL BE DONE. AND THAT'S JUST THE SUMMATION OF THE WHOLE STORY. SO NO MATTER IF IT WAS BARABBAS OR SOMEBODY ELSE, IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN BECAUSE IT'S NECESSARY BASED UPON ADAM AND EVE AND BRINGING SIN INTO THE WORLD, WE NEED A SAVIOR.

>> WELL, AND YOU SEE THAT IN PASSAGES LIKE GALATIANS 4:4 WHENEVER IT SAYS IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, GOD DID WHAT HE DID. YOU COULD EVEN GO TO ACTS 2:23, HIM BEING DELIVERED BY THE DETERMINED COUNSEL AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YOU HAVE TAKEN BY LAWLESS HANDS. SO AS YOU SAID, IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN. GOD HAD THIS PLAN, AND IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN.

>> RIGHT. SO IT'S HIS WILL, AND IT'S GOING TO BE DONE NO MATTER IF IT WAS BARABAS. WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT'S FULL OF SIN, FULL OF TROUBLES, FULL OF HEARTACHES. AND IF IT WASN'T GOING TO HAPPEN, THE WORLD WOULD HAVE ENDED A LONG TIME AGO.

>> EXACTLY. EXACTLY.

>> THE WORLD WOULD HAVE ENDED A LONG TIME AGO.

>> AND EVEN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE, WHEN YOU GO THERE WHENEVER THEY'RE CHOOSING BETWEEN THE TWO, I LIKE IN JOHN'S VERSION OF THE GOSPEL. IN JOHN CHAPTER 18, PILATE THEN SAID TO THEM, WELL, YOU TAKE HIM AND JUDGE HIM ACCORDING TO YOUR LAW. THEREFORE THE JEWS SAID TO HIM, IT IS NOT LAWFUL FOR US TO PUT ANYONE TO DEATH, THAT THE SAYING OF JESUS MIGHT BE FULFILLED WHICH HE SPOKE, SIGNIFYING BY WHAT DEATH HE WOULD DIE. SO EXACTLY WHAT YOU SAID. IT IS ACCORDING TO PROPHECY,

IT'S ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL THAT IT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN THE WAY THAT IT DID.

>> AND IT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO SHOW US JUST HOW WICKED WE ARE, JUST HOW WICKED OF A GENERATION THIS IS. THE ONE WHO IS PERFECT, WHO HAS NO WRONG, AND NEITHER COULD PILATE FIND IT IN HIM, THAT'S THE GUY WHO WAS SENT TO THE CROSS, NOT THE OTHER ONE.

>> AND DON'T WE GIVE GOD THE GLORY FOR THAT, AND AREN'T WE THANKFUL FOR THE WAY THAT IT HAPPENED? BECAUSE GOD HAD THAT PLAN, AND THAT'S EXACTLY HOW IT HAPPENED.

>> YOU KNOW, IT'S THE SADDEST OCCASION, BUT YET THE MOST GLORIOUS ONE YOU COULD THINK OF.

>> AMEN.

>> WE HOPE THAT THIS EPISODE HAS HELPED YOU TO UNDERSTAND SUFFERING AND DEAL WITH IT, ANY SUFFERING THAT YOU MAY BE EXPERIENCING. WE ALWAYS ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK EVERY RELIGIOUS TEACHING. WHETHER WE TELL YOU OR ANYBODY ELSE, CHECK IT AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD. SEE IF IT'S TRUE. LOOK AT THE CONTEXT, MAKE SURE THAT THAT PASSAGE MEANS WHAT SOMEBODY TELLS YOU IT MEANS. YOU CAN WATCH OR LISTEN TO THE PROGRAM AGAIN, MAYBE HAVE SOME TIME TO GO BACK AND CHECK THE SCRIPTURES FOR YOURSELF. THAT'S ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA. YOU CAN DO THAT ON OUR WEBSITE, THROUGH OUR APPS, OUR CHANNELS, OR OUR PODCAST. IF YOU STILL HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. WE MIGHT EVEN ANSWER YOUR QUESTION ON THE PROGRAM. KNOW THAT WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY