

Bay Life Church Message Notes

Sunday, Oct. 12, 2014

Lead Pastor Mark Saunders

Grace & Truth In Times Of Trouble (Part 2)

“Why is there pain and suffering in the world?”

God’s gives us much to be thankful for, even in times of suffering.

Suffering is a part of life—it’s either here, or it’s on its way.

- Sin is the underlying cause of all suffering.

12 *When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.*

Romans 5:12 NLT

Why didn’t God create us without the capacity to to sin?

- Satan is committed to seeing us suffer

6 *Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. **7** The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” **8** And the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” **9** Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason? **10** Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. **11** But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”*

Job 1:6-11 ESV

- God allows Satan and sin to bring suffering to our lives

12 *And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.*

13 *Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, **14** and there came a messenger to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, **15** and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” **16** While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” **17** While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.” **18** While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest*

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*brother's house, **19** and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you."*

Job 1:13-19 ESV

So why does God allow us to go through suffering?

- Sometimes He allows suffering to prove our faith

20 *Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.*

Job 1:20 ESV

- Sometimes He allows suffering to increase our faith

2 *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, **3** for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. **4** And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*

James 1:2-4 ESV

"The faith that can't be shaken is the faith the faith that has been shaken."

Randy Alcorn

- Sometimes He allows suffering to steer us back to faith

12 *Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.*

1 Peter 4:12 ESV

3 *"You shall have no other gods before me.*

Exodus 20:3 ESV

So what do we do when God allows us to go through suffering?

- Be honest with your feelings in the midst of suffering

20 *Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped.*

Job 1:20 ESV

- Trust God in the midst of suffering

21 *And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."*

22 *In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*

Job 1:21-22 ESV

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7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. **8** Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. **9** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10** For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Corinthians 12:7-10 ESV

- Be prepared for things to get worse before they get better

1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. **2** And the Lord said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." **3** And the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." **4** Then Satan answered the Lord and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. **5** But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face." **6** And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand; only spare his life." **7** So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and struck Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. **8** And he took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself while he sat in the ashes. **9** Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." **10** But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:1-10 ESV

- Resist the urge to explain things you can't

11 Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. **12** And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. **13** And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

Job 2:11-13 ESV

- Remember that Jesus redeems us from and relates with us in our suffering