

On-Line Sermon Notes

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERIES</u>	<u>SERMON TITLE</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE REFERENCE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
12/4/16	Reasons to Remember	To Understand Suffering	Various	Fred Hennes

Reasons to Remember

- We are in a season of over-spending, over-eating and over-committing
- This is a series to help us appreciate Christmas (raise the value of this Holiday)

To Understand Suffering

- Jesus – “illegitimate child”
- Family thought him to be out of his mind – an embarrassment
- Poor & homeless
- Misunderstood, rejected, abandoned, tortured, and murdered

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Isaiah 53:3

Suffering is agony, affliction, or distress; intense pain or sorrow.

- Part of the human experience since man's fall into sin (Gen 3)
- 1/3 of Psalms are laments, include graphic descriptions of suffering (Ps 22)
- Theme of Job is why God permits the righteous to suffer

Matt 4:24 People brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain,

Matt 8:6 “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

Matt 15:22 A Canaanite woman came to him, crying out, Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

Matt 17:15 “Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He has seizures and is suffering greatly.”

Sources of Suffering

1. Result of evil or sin

- Gen 4 → Cain murdered Able: jealousy & anger
- Ohio State car & knife attack injuring 11, killing 1

Sources of Suffering

2. Allowed by God

- To shape us & refine us
- Helps us anticipate heaven - the best is yet to come!
- To result in future praise of God

In all this (salvation to come) you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 1 Peter 1:6-7

These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Peter 1:6-7

Sources of Suffering

3. Chosen (endured) for the sake of others

- Giving up sleep for your baby; to changing the diaper of your infirmed parent.
- Motivated by love → “*Suffering servant*”

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Sources of Suffering

4. For Christ & His kingdom

- Martyred, tortured, persecuted

2 Tim 3:12 everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

Blessings of Suffering

1. Demonstrate God's power

- Paul's thorn in the side. God's grace is sufficient

Blessings of Suffering

2. Identify with Christ → Not for Him, but with Him

- To be His disciple involves suffering just like the Master
- Christ & His followers are bonded thru suffering
- (*physical pain / despair-unappreciated*)
- Called the "fellowship of suffering"

I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, Philippians 3:10

Blessings of Suffering

3. Comfort others

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles,

so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 2 Corinthians 1:3-6

Communion

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 1 Peter 3:18