Pain and Suffering

A powerful pry-bar of Satan

1. **Recap of the last two lessons:**
2. We discussed Fear and Doubt as powerful tools of Satan. Fear concerns things that have never happened, and probably never will.

* When we’re afraid, it’s easy to doubt that God could or would be there for us.
* Fear usually comes first, but doubt causes fear quite often as well.

1. Faith overcomes the world. Fear and doubt that war against faith are of this world.

* Faith is not just an inward conviction, but a demonstration of conviction through acts of obedience to God’s Word.
* When God says you can, you can. Peter was told, “Come,” then rebuked for lack of faith when he sank. We’re told we can move mountains.

1. When pain & suffering enter our lives, distraction is easy, doubtful or even fear.

* Pain & suffering can give way to sheer terror, absolute despair, depression, & a tunnel vision that forgets God, focuses exclusively on the perceived source of discomfort.
* Pain & suffering are part of this life, but are product of sin & rebellion against God.
* Genesis 3:14-19
  + Eve doubts God & fears losing out on advantages Satan shows her, therefore:
  + Serpent: Most cursed beast, crawl, eat dust, head crushed by woman’s seed (Jesus).
  + Woman: Multiplied sorrows & conception, difficult labor, subject to husband.
  + Man: Ground cursed, sorrow, thorns & thistles, sweat, death to dust.

1. **God’s Word on Pain and Suffering:**
2. We can be persecuted in the form of sickness and suffering.

* 2 Timothy 3:12, Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

1. Job – God is in control. NASV
   * Satan has to have permission to strike. God warns us of suffering persecution.

* Job 1:6-12, God first tells Satan of Job. Specifically named by name!
* Job 2:1-6, God brings Job to Satan’s mind again.
* Each time, God gave Satan parameters, and a clear and absolute limit as well.
* 2 Peter 3:9, God not willing that ANY perish, but all should come to repentance.

1. Paul’s thorn in flesh, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, “…the messenger of Satan to buffet me…”
2. The man born blind, John 9:1-33

* V.1-3, who sinned? That the works of God should be made manifest in him.
* V.30-33, If this Man were not of God, He could do nothing!

1. Why was Lazarus allowed to die?

* John 11:1-6, Jesus loved the family, but stayed two more days when He heard.
* John 11:11-16, the apostles will die w/ Jesus, but He says they need true belief.
* John 11:17-32, Martha & Mary both ask Jesus why He wasn’t there to save him.
* John 11:33-38, their grief caused Jesus to weep and groan.

1. God’s Judgments are true and righteous! Revelation 16:7; 19:1
2. Jacob (Israel) and Rachel.

* 7 years seemed but a few days for the love he bore for her. Genesis 29:20
* Deceived into marrying Leah. Ends up with four women.
* For whom did he feel more than duty?
* Rachel gave him Joseph, thus his favored son with the coat of many colors.
  + Joseph sold into slavery by his jealous brothers
  + Jacob believed he was killed and eaten by beasts.
* Benoni (the son of my sorrow) 🡪 Benjamin (son of the right hand) Genesis 35
* Genesis 48:7, last recorded private words to Joseph bring it up suddenly again.
* When still fairly young, Jacob lost the love of his life.
  + Her first born is believed to be eaten by wild animals.
  + Benjamin is demanded in Egypt to keep family alive. Genesis 42:38; 43:14

1. James 1:2-16, being tried is part of passing the tests of this life. DO NOT ERR!
2. Lazarus and the rich man, Luke 16:22-25, which transition do you want? How?

* Luke 16:27-31, who wants U to suffer but Satan, yet how stubbornly rebellious!
* Romans 8:28, all things work together for good to whom?
* John 12:3-8, Mary showed her gratitude by washing Jesus’ feet with her hair.

1. **Life’s Most Perplexing Enigmas:**
2. Old people who curse, drink, smoke, and flagrantly transgress God’s Word.
3. People corrected on doctrinal matters of God’s Word; “Yeah, I know that, but…”
4. Anyone who walks away from Gospel invitation when they’re not right with God.

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

Hear The Gospel (John 5:24; Romans 10:17) Believe the Word of God (John 3:16-18; John 8:24)

Repent Of Your Sins (Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38) Confess Jesus as Christ (Matthew 10:32; Romans 10:10)

Be Baptized (Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27) Remain Faithful for Life (John 8:31; Rev. 2:10)

**FOR THE ERRING CHILD OF GOD:**

Repent (Acts 8:22), Confess (I John 1:9), Pray (Acts 8:22)

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