

Suffering

Part 4 of *Taboo* series

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In this fallen world, no one is immune from suffering.

In this world you will have trouble.

John 16:33

The different responses to suffering in Scripture:

- To teach how it can be the result of sin.

Whoever digs a hole and scoops it out falls into the pit they have made. The trouble they cause recoils on them; their violence comes down on their own heads.

Psalm 7:15–16

- To show how it's purpose can be for a greater good.

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20

For you, God, tested us; you refined us like silver.

Psalm 66:10

- To point out how it can be caused by cosmic evil forces.

[Jesus] went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil.

Acts 10:38

- To leave it at mystery.

Would you discredit my justice? Would you condemn me to justify yourself?

Job 40:8

- To simply lament.
(Psalm 10: 1, 12, 16, 17-18)

Truth to help you endure suffering...

- Jesus is for you.

If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

- Jesus is with you.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Psalm 23:4

- Jesus knows & understands what you're going through.

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

Isaiah 53:3

- Jesus makes suffering meaningful.

(John 9:1-3, MSG)

- Jesus alone can provide the hope & strength you need.

(Psalm 73:22-26, 2 Cor 4:16-18)

Next Steps

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- There seems to be this assumption with many Christians that we should suffer less than everyone else. Have you seen this? Why do you think many believe this way?
- What are some of the ways you experience suffering?
- What are the biggest challenges you face when you suffer?
- Read Romans 8:31, Psalm 23:4, & Isaiah 53:3. How does the truth in these verses help you endure suffering?
- Pray for one another.