

LESSON 4: A Good Outcome Is Assured – Study Guide & Discussion Questions

Lesson Overview: Our suffering today is fitting us for our futures as co-heirs of Christ and sharers of His glory, with this condition: "if indeed we share [today] in His sufferings..." (Romans. 8:17)

Lesson Guide

Our suffering today is _____ us for something in the future will help our faith to be more resilient.

- I. "The question for pain and tragedy is _____."
 - a. The prerequisite for sharing in Christ's glory...
Romans 8:17-18 "...We are _____ of God and co-_____ with Christ, *if indeed we share in His _____ in order that we may also share in His _____* .

Any suffering today is _____ worth _____ with the glory to come. (v.18)
 - b. God can handle our " _____ " questions – read the Psalms!
 - c. We're going to go through pain and suffering...the question is, how do go through it and not _____ it?
 - d. The Holy Spirit translates our why-prayers.
 - e. II Corinthians 12:9-10, Example of Paul and his thorn in his flesh; something happened in Paul's life where he went from _____ that it would be taken away to actually _____ it.
 - f. Suffering and weakness provides a _____ for God's power.
 - g. "Anything that happens in your life or anything that happens in my life that makes me more like Jesus, that's _____ ." This is part of the "All things" of Romans 8:28. Verse 29, "To be conformed to the image of His Son."
 - h. Jesus came not to take away our suffering, but to _____ it.
- II. Knowing that our suffering today is working _____ us, fitting us for our future as co-heirs with Christ makes our faith _____ .

SURVIVOR TIP #4 – How we LIVE

- We need God to provide for us spiritual _____, which can fuel worship.
- Spiritual _____ .
- We need God to provide for us spiritual _____ .
Psalm 91 describes God's protection in graphically *physical* terms.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to Romans 8:17, a prerequisite to sharing in Christ's glory is sharing in His suffering. What do you think it means to "share in Christ's suffering"? And what does it mean to "share in Christ's glory"?
2. Describe how it makes you feel to know that your present sufferings can't even compare to your future glory.
3. What does the phrase "God redeems our suffering" mean? Have you experienced this? What does it look like?
4. What does Scott mean when he talks about "wasting our pain"? What does it look like to waste our pain?
5. Why would the knowledge that God doesn't waste any pain or hardship in our life make our faith more resilient?
6. As Jane reminded us, we need God to give us our spiritual food. Is there a Psalm or another passage of Scripture to which you run for strength or solace during hard times, or just times when you are feeling low?
7. Respond to this phrase, "Even if every day on earth were hell for 70 or 80 years, it's worth it for an eternity in heaven with Christ."

LESSON 4 Study Guide [ANSWERS]

Our suffering today is [FITTING] us for something in the future, it will help our faith to be more resilient.

- III. “The question for pain and tragedy is [WHY].”
- a. The prerequisite for sharing in Christ’s glory...
Romans 8:17-18 “...We are [HEIRS] of God and co-[HEIRS] with Christ, *if indeed we share in His [SUFFERING] in order that we may also share in His [GLORY].*

Any suffering today is [NOT] worth [COMPARING] with the glory to come. (v.18)
 - b. God can handle our “[WHY]” questions – read the Psalms!
 - c. We’re going to go through pain and suffering...the question is, how do go through it and not [WASTE] it?
 - d. The Holy Spirit translates our why-prayers to God.
 - e. II Corinthians 12:9-10, Example of Paul and his thorn in his flesh; something happened in Paul’s life where he went from [BEGGING] that it would be taken away to actually [CHERISHING] it.
 - f. Suffering and weakness provides a [FOUNDATION] for God’s power.
 - g. “Anything that happens in your life or anything that happens in my life that makes me more like Jesus, that’s [GOOD]”. This is part of the “All things” of Romans 8:28. Verse 29, “To be conformed to the image of His Son.”
 - h. Jesus came not to take away our take away our suffering, but to [REDEEM] it.
- IV. Knowing that our suffering today is working [FOR] us, fitting us for our future as co-heirs with Christ makes our faith [MORE RESILIENT].

SURVIVOR TIP #4 – How we LIVE

- We need God to provide for us spiritual [FOOD], which can fuel worship.
- We need God to provide for us spiritual [CLOTHING].
- We need God to provide for us spiritual [SHELTER].
Psalm 91 describes God’s protection in graphically *physical* terms.