

Luke 5:17-26

<sup>17</sup> One day He was teaching; and there were *some* Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting *there*, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and *from* Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was *present* for Him to perform healing. <sup>18</sup> And *some* men *were* carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. <sup>19</sup> But not finding any *way* to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle *of the crowd*, in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> Seeing their faith, He said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven you.” <sup>21</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this *man* who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” <sup>22</sup> But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins have been forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? <sup>24</sup> But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,”—He said to the paralytic—“I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home.” <sup>25</sup> Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. <sup>26</sup> They were all struck with astonishment and *began* glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen remarkable things today.”

**1. All people will experience suffering.**

a. Life is full of suffering.

**i. Ecclesiastes 3:16**

b. Human knowledge only expands our awareness of suffering.

**i. Ecclesiastes 1:17-18**

c. God’s children are not immune to suffering.

**2. God is sovereign in our suffering.**

a. God is aware of our suffering.

**i. Jeremiah 10:23**

**ii. Matthew 10:29**

**iii. Psalm 56:8**

b. God predestines our suffering.

i. Infirmities:

**1. Exodus 4:11**

ii. General Suffering

**1. 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

c. God passively and actively causes us to suffer.

i. Passive Example

1. Joseph’s slavery in Egypt

**a. Genesis 50:20**

- ii. Active Examples
  - 1. Paul's Thorn in the Flesh
    - a. **2 Corinthians 12:7**
  - 2. **Job**
  - 3. Peter sifted by Satan
    - a. **Luke 22:31**
  - 4. Saul's demon
    - a. **1 Samuel 16:14-16**
- 3. Why do humans suffer?
  - a. God does not afflict His children as punishment.
    - i. All of God's wrath against the saved has been poured out on Christ.
      - 1. **Romans 8:1**
      - 2. **Romans 5:1**
    - ii. This is not the case for the unregenerate.
      - 1. **Romans 2:5-6**
  - b. God afflicts His children for a variety of purposes.
    - i. By using the word "purposes" we affirm that these events are not random but designed.
    - ii. Purpose 1: Magnifying God's Glory
      - 1. **John 9:1-3**
    - iii. Purpose 2: Our Sanctification
      - 1. **James 1:2-4**
      - 2. **Malachi 3:1-4**
      - 3. **1 Peter 1:6-7**
    - iv. Purpose 3: To show His love for us.
      - 1. **Hebrews 12: 4-14**
        - a. "Discipline" in the Greek literally means to train up and instruct a child, not to punish.
- 4. Conclusions:
  - a. In this life we will all suffer various things.
  - b. God in His sovereignty either actively or passively causes us to suffer.
  - c. God does not cause His children to suffer to punish them but because He loves them.
  - d. Times of suffering are opportunities to grow in sanctification, increase our love and dependence on Christ, and encourage each other in ministry.

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  - a. God is \_\_\_\_\_ of our suffering.
    - i. Jeremiah 10:23
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  - b. God \_\_\_\_\_ our suffering.
    - i. Infirmities:
      1. Exodus 4:11
    - ii. General Suffering
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  - c. God \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ causes us to suffer.
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