The Problem of Suffering

Shawn Jeffries · Luke 13:1–5

INTRODUCTION

- Suffering is something that we all have had to experience. Suffering is a universal problem.
- Why do we live in a world where God allows suffering? This is a question that we find being asked all throughout the Bible.
- The apostles had some questions about suffering, and I'm pretty sure that there are some folks here who have those same kinds of questions.

1 Suffering Has Many Causes

Luke 13:1–2; 2 Samuel 12; Matthew 22:36–37

- Sometimes we suffer in this world because of ourselves, because of our own foolish and sinful choices.
- People suffer in this life not because of their sinful choices, but because of the sinful choices of others.
- Much of the suffering that people experience in this life is the result of free will.
- He wants us to love him and love, brothers and sisters, requires choice.
- Not only are sometimes people punished by God for their sins, sometimes people also suffer because of the devil.
- Sometimes people suffer as just part of the natural experiences of life.

2 Suffering Can Bring About Some Good

James 1:2–4; 1 Peter 1:6–7; 2 Corinthians 12:7–10

- Suffering can actually bring about some good. It can accomplish some good in our lives for the glory of God.
- Consider it all joy, my brethren. When you encounter various trials. Knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.
- Trials can remove from our lives the things that God wants removed. Trials can make us better in the service of God and reveal if we are real, genuine, and authentic in our faith.
- Do we quit on the Lord? Do we throw in the spiritual towel or do we pray more and read the Bible more and trust more and become more dependent on God?
- He was keeping him humble. He was keeping him more dependent upon him. He was helping him avoid developing a spirit of pride.
- While going through suffering can hurt, bring pain, beat us down. They can also be tools to equip us in a very special way.

3 Repent or You Will Likewise Perish

Luke 13:1–5

- After telling his audiences about these tragic cases of suffering, he then tells them to repent.

- Dying in our sins is far more serious than experiencing any kind of suffering in this life.
- Instead of spending all of our time wondering why did God let this happen? And why did God let that happen? What we need to do is repent. We need to turn away from our sins.
- Sudden death can also happen to us. It can happen to me and it can happen to you.
- We can't always control when and how and why we suffer in this life. But you know we can control? We can control our spiritual path.
- The reason why Jesus was willing to experience suffering and death on the cross was so we can be saved from having to suffer in the next life.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Maybe there's someone here this morning who needs to come to Jesus for the very first time. You need to obey the gospel. Believe in Him. Repent of your sins. Confess Him as Lord, and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.**

MY NOTES