



Making Sense of Suffering

Sermon Notes and Takehome

October 3rd, 2010

When we see suffering, we wonder, "Does God _____?"

Something tells us this isn't the way it's _____ .

Making sense of suffering:

1. Suffering was not God's _____ for the world.

2. Suffering drives us to _____.

3. Suffering develops _____.
 - It can only happen in a life that's _____ to God.

4. Suffering develops _____.

5. The power of the Kingdom of the power of _____.

- As followers of Jesus we're called to _____ suffering.

6. _____ is the great equalizer.

6. Have you ever had joy in your trials?

7. How does complete surrender to God help us deal with suffering?

8. In the message, Pastor Kory said that suffering develops compassion? Can you think of a time when you had compassion for someone who was going through something you had already experienced?

9. Were you able to help them? If so, how?

10. What do you think it means to "enter the suffering of others?" Can you think of an example?

11. How does accepting the inevitability of suffering help us enter the suffering of others?

12. What is one area of your life you're struggling with now? Has it driven you to prayer? Have you asked someone to pray for you?

13. What will it look like for you to develop compassion or maturity in this situation?

14. Are you aware of anyone around you suffering? What can you do to share the grace of Jesus with them? When will you do it?

Questions for Reflection:

1. What happens when you think about a child dying of cancer?

2. Think about some times in your life you would say you suffered the most.

3. What did you feel at the time? (i.e. Did you question God? We're you angry?)

4. What did these experiences do for your faith? Was your faith immediately weaker or stronger? Did this change over time?

5. How do you feel when James writes, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds...?"