

## Rooted: Where Is God In The Midst Of Suffering?

10.03.2021

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We're in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of our series called Rooted

**Colossians 2:6 (NLT) - And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow Him.**

This is where a lot of us get stuck  
There are a lot of people in Spring Hill  
Who, at some point in their past  
Accepted Jesus  
They may have said a prayer  
Or gotten baptized  
But then they kind of quit growing

Paul says, "you must continue to follow Him"

Verse 7

**Colossians 2:7 (NLT) - Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.**

We are devoting this entire season

Labor Day to Thanksgiving

To putting our roots down into God

And then our lives will be built on Him  
Our faith will grow strong  
And our lives will overflow with thankfulness  
Just in time for Thanksgiving

You see what I did there?!?

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So today's message is important  
This week in your groups and in your devotionals  
Is important  
Because we're dealing with a major roadblock  
For people to get to *this life*

The title of today's message:

**Where is God in the midst of suffering?**

All throughout the Bible  
People were upset with God  
Disappointed  
Because things weren't turning out the way they hoped

They were asking this question:  
God, where are you at in my suffering?!?

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Jonah was disappointed with God because He didn't destroy Nineveh like Jonah had said He would

Hung him out to dry

Made him look like a fool

Elijah honored God by going through a drought & a showdown with 450 prophets of Baal

And he was rewarded by having King Ahab promise to kill him

That was the last straw

He was mad at God

Have you ever had that “one more thing” moment?

What was your last straw?

Abraham was upset that God was going to destroy Sodom & Gomorrah even though Lot, his nephew, lived there

He plead with God, saying,

**Genesis 18:25b (NirV) - Won't the Judge of the whole earth do what is right?**

Do you ever feel like God just isn't doing what is right?

In your mind, there is a clear choice – a right answer

And God doesn't seem to be picking it

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Because I'm really smart

And an artist

I've boiled it down this way:

**Here we are**

Minding our own business

### **And we get hit with suffering**

And it hurts

All of us can relate

Some of us can relate TODAY

RIGHT NOW

And on the tail end of suffering

This is interesting

And on the tail end of suffering

### **We all cry out to God**

Sometimes we cry out for help

Sometimes we cry out in pain

Sometimes we shake our fists towards Heaven

But we all cry out to God

There are no atheists in foxholes

And here's the reality:

### **We have a choice to make at that moment**

If you're *here* today

Pay attention

If someone sent this to you

Thank them later – this is big

We all get to this point

And then we have a choice to make

And the Bible

Gives us some options

And some predictions about where those options will take us

We'll get to that in just a minute

But to set that up

Grab a bible

**And turn to Acts 5 (page 746)**

We'll come back to this chart in a second

While you're turning

Let me bring everyone up to speed

Especially if you've not been with us

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Read Acts 5:12-13

Highly regarded

Read Acts 5:14-16

Impact

God's vision

Read Acts 5:17

Jealous

Location / timing

**Acts 6:7 - So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**

Impact on temple

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Read Acts 5:17

Suffering

**Chart**

Read Acts 5:18

Apostles – not just Peter & John

Prison door

Read Acts 5:19-21

Full council

Intimidation

**Acts 4:13a - When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished**

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Read Acts 5:22-24

**Puzzled**

Read Acts 5:25-26

No force

Read Acts 5:27-28

“This name”

“This man”

Read Acts 5:29-33

Jesus

**Furious**

Teach Acts 5:34-39

Read Acts 5:40

Flogged

Passion of the Christ

How long?

15 minutes each maybe?

Waiting in line for 3 hours

Watching

And all of this probably in the same location where Jesus was flogged just a few weeks before

So they were probably assuming that crucifixion was next

Read Acts 5:41

**Rejoicing**

**Counted Worthy (On the team)**

## Unrelenting

We all go through steps 1, 2, and 3

Some of us are there now

Jesus told us:

**John 16:33** - I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble.** But take heart! I have overcome the world.

But He didn't tell us that to discourage us

He told us to take heart

Because He's gone before us

And He told us that trouble was coming

So that we'd have peace even when it gets here

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Some of you have noticed that I missed a blank on my chart

We all face suffering

Jesus promised us that

And we have a choice to make

We can follow the Apostles lead:

Rejoice in the Lord

We can take pride that we're on the team

With Christians today

And throughout history who have suffered in a Christ honoring way



We can be unrelenting

By the power of God

Or

We can be jealous

God – why don't they have to face that?

We can be puzzled

God – why's this happening to me?

We can be furious

God – why did you allow that to happen?

And when we do that

When we live in the jealousy and confusion and anger

We will find ourselves

**Fighting against God**

Gamaliel convinced them

If God's involved in this

And you fight it

You will only find yourself fighting against God

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We started this message asking – Where is God in the midst of suffering?

This doesn't need to be a mystery

He tells us:

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our**

troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

And the more we're facing

The more comfort He provides

Look at the next verse:

**2 Corinthians 1:5 - For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.**

**Teach Philippians 3:10a - I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings**

**Teach Romans 5:2b-4 - We boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.**

He goes on to say that that hope doesn't disappoint

There are very few things in this life that are certain

One of the biggest casualties of the last 18 months has been certainty

There are very few things in this life that are certain

But hope in God... does not disappoint

**Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."**

Never will I leave you

Never will I forsake you

And I don't think it's ironic that God says that on the heels of saying

Don't find your certainty and your joy

From things in this life

They're not certain

They will leave you

They will forsake you

But I will not

I will not leave you

I will not forsake you