



ROOTED

A JOURNEY TO A RADICALLY MEANINGFUL LIFE

WHERE IS GOD IN THE MIDST OF SUFFERING? | MARK 5:21-43 | AUGUST 16
GOD DOES NOT PROMISE TO REMOVE OUR SUFFERING BUT TO STRENGTHEN US
THROUGH IT THAT WE MIGHT BECOME MORE LIKE HIM.

Every culture has blind spots about what it means to walk in the way of Jesus. As Americans, we must continually fight the urge to seek comfort above everything else. We swim in a sea of advertisements. Each one promises to make our lives easier and happier if we simply buy what they are selling.

However, Jesus is not bound by the American dream. Even a quick read of the Bible will show you that suffering is inevitable. The lives of people throughout the Bible were full of suffering. Even the heroes of the faith faced intense suffering in their lives. Once you see it, you wonder how you never saw it in the first place.

A line in the Broadway play Hamilton says it well, “Death doesn’t discriminate between the sinners and the saints. It takes, and it takes, and it takes, and it takes.” The reality of suffering eventually impacts all of our lives. We currently can’t escape this reality. It hits us in the face when we turn on the news or scroll through our social media newsfeeds. How do we make sense of the suffering in our lives? Can God use our suffering in any redeemable way? Those are the questions we will be looking at together.

1. Apart from God, where do you run for comfort when experiencing pain in your life?

Today's passage is broken up into three segments. Each will point to a unique challenge and response by Jesus.

READ MARK 5:21-24

2. Jairus is a highly respected and influential religious leader, yet he finds himself in the midst of suffering. Can you describe any good people in your life who have gone through intense suffering?

3. What might Jesus' response to Jairus tell us about his character?

READ MARK 5:25-34

4. The unnamed woman in this passage is the ultimate outsider. How does her story make you feel? Can you identify with any of her desperation?

5. How does Jesus making her come forward, redefine her identity?

READ MARK 5:35-43

6. How does Jesus healing Jairus' daughter encourage you in the midst of suffering?

7. Who is a suffering person God is asking you to reach out to?