



SUFFEROLOGY:

When Bad Things Happen to Good People

Pastor David Cannistraci ♦ August 3, 2008

"We don't yet see things clearly. We're squinting in a fog, peering through a mist. But it won't be long before the weather clears and the sun shines bright! We'll see it all then, see it all as clearly as God sees us..." 1 Corinthians 13:12 (MSG)

► *If we focus on a few key _____, we can move _____ in the midst of suffering.*

FOUR TAIL LIGHTS IN THE _____ OF LIFE

1. Suffering isn't God's _____.

Genesis 1:31, Psalm 18:31

"The earth suffers for the sins of its people, for they have twisted God's instructions, violated his laws, and broken his everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:5 (NLT)

Our sin has resulted two kinds of suffering in this world:

- *Some suffering comes because of _____ brokenness.*
- *Some suffering comes because of _____ brokenness.*

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 (NKJV)

2. Suffering isn't good, but God _____ it for our _____.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

Suffering (Cont'd)

3. Suffering can be _____ by means of _____.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." Matthew 6:13 (NIV)

"Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray...Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you...and the Lord will make you well..." James 5:13-15 (NLT)

4. Suffering can't _____ to what God has for us in _____.

"Our suffering now cannot be compared to the shining-greatness that He is going to give us." Romans 8:18 (CEV)

"The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

"I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NLT)

FATHER GOD, I thank you that Christ is a Redeemer. I can't see the reasons for my pain, but I know your love is real. Today I choose to trust you fully as my Lord and Savior. Use me to comfort others in this broken world. In Christ's Name, AMEN

RESOURCES FOR THIS WEEK'S SMALL GROUPS

Icebreaker: Share a personal story of God working good out of pain.

Scripture Focus: Let each member share a verse from this teaching--one that spoke to them personally. What does it mean to them?

Discussion Focus: Talk about how God redeems our circumstances.

Prayer Focus: Pray for those in your group who are suffering.

REMEMBER to give an offering for the needy in your group this week, for God has promised us a rich reward (Det. 15:11, Psalm 41:1)