

Title: Why Must I suffer? (Part 2...ths should follow Part I)

Text: Matthew 5:10-12

Take your Bibles and turn to Matthew chapter 5 verse 12. We want to continue where we left off last Sunday. This final beatitude deals with persecution and suffering. This is an area of life that is very hard for christians to understand. <sup>and accept</sup> No one likes to suffer. Yet, all of us go through periods of suffering....trials....persecutions....And we often ask WHY?.... WHY ME?.....

Matthew chapter 5 beginning with Vs 10..(Read Vs 10-12)

### Prayer

(1 ) Now, as we begin, let's understand the source or cause of suffering.

Over the years I have shared these principles with people, and I have discovered that it opens up to a person's mind a little bit more of what suffering really is according to Scripture. And, also, what our Lord is talking about in this 8th beatitude. You see, there are reasons why a person suffers...

(1 ) First of all, we suffer because we, ourselves, are the cause. I mentioned this last week. If we do a stupid thing, we are going to suffer because of it. That is not what is being discussed here in the baatitudes. But, you will suffer for your own faults and mistakes....

(2 ) Secondly, if you start there and then move on out beyond that, you will discover that there is a curse that is on the whole world. And the Bible says that we suffer because of the curse that is upon the world.

Every time you go out into your garden to weed it, you are experiencing the results of the curse that is upon the world. I have noticed that my flower beds are especially cursed. The weeds just grow all the time. And every time I go out to weed the flowers I have to pray for courage and patience. And those weeds are a constant remainder to me of the curse that is on the earth. "MAN BY THE SWEAT OF HIS BACK SHALL WORD" says Gen chapter 3.

And there are many things which are subject to the curse. Your own body is subject to the curse. In fact, the Bible says, the whole creation is groaning in pain waiting for the redemption. ~~Your own body is groaning waiting for redemption.~~ Many people reveal that here and now. For example, *Some folk are Sick and* they would like to be healed, right now! Their body is groaning in pain for deliverance. God reminds us that the final deliverance is not until redemption is completed when Christ returns. Now, that is in Romans 8.

So, there is the curse that brings suffering and persecution, *Truly Terrible*  
(3) Now, as you expand ~~your~~ your concept, the thing that is behind the curse is the concept of sin. Sin is obviously behind the curse. There was no curse before sin came into the world. And the Bible teaches that there is suffering as a result of sin.

I would like you to turn to this, please, in James 5. James chapter 5. In Verse 14-16 individual people as ~~well~~ *we* as the church itself is being given instructions about what to do with serious illness. We know that it is serious by usage of the word "sick". Which is also used in John 5 of a paralysed man who could not put himself into the pool of water.

Without any hope of recovery, we have the sick one urged to do something in Vs 14. Let's read it:

Vs 14... "is anyone among you sick? let him call....literally, Call to himself. "For the elders of the church."....

Notice...it is a private meeting, not a mass gathering. Not for public display, but he calls to ~~himself~~ *himself*, literally in the Greek text. "let *them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of The Lord.*"

Basical, the oil is symbolic of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Vs 15: "and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick."

Now, it is "the prayer"...the word used of prayer is not a word of demand. But it is a word of worship. It is a word that understands the will of God. The prayer that is according to God's will. And it is according to "the faith"..the sum total of God's word and his will as revealed in Bible

"it will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up." The elders willn't raise him up. He cannot raise himself up. The Lord will. "and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."

Right away we learn that sin is a factor in physical deasease. Now, I donot believe that sin cause all physical desassa and suffering. I hope you do not either. John 9 carefies that. But, listen, don't wirtte this off. The Bible does teach, and especially when there are offenses between christians, as he says in Vs 16: "confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed."

And again the Word shows us that sins between christians can cause physical sickness and disease. Suffering in that catogory. Mental STRESS

(4) Now, behind sin is another root cause and that is Satan, himself. Turn to 2 Corinthians, please, chapter 12. 2 Corinthians 12:7. Paul in reflecting upon a glorious experience, which he had said <sup>happen to her so that</sup> ~~that~~ just so he wouldn't get proud and exalt himsaelf. <sup>adsr</sup> God gave him a message from Satan to buffet him.....Vs 7 (read)

I notice ~~here~~ something that everyone of us needs to understand. I know that I sure do. And that is, even if Satan cause physical suffering, like he did to Job, he does so only because God allows it. It was God who wanted this in Paul's life. And he permitted a messenger of Satan to buffet Paul with a throne in the flesh.

Paul ask God three times to remove it, and he didn't. And Paul learned to take pleasure in his suffering that the power of christ would be upon him. And that is very important. <sup>for us to learn</sup>

<sup>out</sup> Listen, Satan can really afflect suffering on up you and me. And for the Christian he ususally does so in the form of discouragements..

(5) And yet, in understanding all of this, you must go back one step further. And that is to the root cause of suffering and that is God. What is the ultimate <sup>since</sup> cause of all suffering??.... God

It amazes me, how often this question comes up in talking with people.. Well, if God is a God of love, why do we have all this suffering??...And people are amaz~~ed~~ to learn that God is ~~behind it all~~ <sup>always it</sup>.....People don't want to blame God, and yet, they are trying to as they talk with you.

= When they happen~~d~~, just encourage them to go ahead and to it. Because God wants the blame. Affliction doesn't arise out of the ~~swill~~ dust, says Job. It is coming from God.

Over in Exodus chapter 3, Moses learned that God made the deaf, deaf and the blind, blind and dumb, dumb. The Bible teaches that.

In John 9, Jesus and his disciples came by a man that was born blind. And they ask, "who sinned, this man or his parants?" And Jeus answered and said, "neither, not his parants nor himself, but that the works of God might be made known in him."

He wanted the glory of God to be displayed in that life. Why? Because he healed him and he later gave tesitimony before the Sanhedrian that , "Once I was blind, but now I see."

And later when he met Jesus he fell down and confessed "Lord I believe. " God wanted to glorify himself through that man's life. You know, God will sometime heal a person. Sometimes he will not. You know, it is not God's will to heal you everytime. If it was God's will to heal you, we might as well live for ever right now. If everyone was always in the center of his will, then obviously everybody could be healed all the time and never die.

Oh, know, every person is going to die and their will be that disease, ~~or~~ that trady, or something that will take our life should the Lord tarry.

But, the Lord <sup>love</sup> ~~see to it to~~ heal some people. He does cause miracles just to prove that he is alive and that he is powerful and can do what ever he wants at any time. *You know of examples and so do I. God can heal. Independent of anyone.*

*allowing*

But, God is the final source of suffering. God is ~~causing~~ <sup>allowing</sup> all of it to work his wonderful plan out in our lives. He even gives us suffering to long more for heaven. You know, one of the wonderful things about heaven is the absence of suffering. The Bible teaches that. **GOD IS THE ULTIMATE <sup>source</sup> CAUSE OF SUFFERING.**

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Now, having that background, let's just look at an individual believer. As he views all the suffering and persecutions that comes into his life like a throne. What is God ultimate intention in <sup>allowing</sup> causing suffering? What is God trying to do in his life? Why does God <sup>allow</sup> bring suffering? Why could Jesus say, "Blessed are you when men persecute you, when men revile you, and when they accuse you falsely. How can he say that? <sup>why</sup> is it so great? Why should I be so happy <sup>and glad and rejoice?</sup>

Because, according to the word of God there are three main areas that God is dealing with in your life. THREE AREAS

(1) Number one: deals with the here and now and that is maturity.

Maturity can not come any other way. I Peter 5:10 tells us that the God of all grace after you have suffered awhile will make you mature, strengthen you, establish you, settle you. ~~After I suffer awhile.~~ In other words, I need suffering in order to be mature. I cannot be established, I cannot be strengthened, I cannot be settled without it.

That is a wonderful concept. We need suffering.

~~\_\_\_\_\_e)~~

In Hebrew 12, we learn that God will bring discipline to those whom he loves...WHY?...that they might produce more fruit.

Jesus ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ taught the same thing in John 15:2. He said that every branch in me that bear fruit he prunes it, that it might bring forth more fruit. <sup>s.</sup> God <sup>allowing</sup> brings the suffering. WHY? To make us more productive. And that is a wonderful truth. God wants mature, effective, fruit bearing christians. And his method of doing so is suffering.

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Now, I would like to run away from that some times. But, I must come back to the Word of God, and realize that that is exactly what God wants to do in me. He wants to make me mature through suffering; and I ~~should not complain.~~ But I ~~should accept it willingly and rejoice and be glade.~~

Also in Hebrews 12, it amits the truth about all of us when he says, "all discipline for the moment seems not be be joyful, but sorrowful." Now, that is the truth, isn't it?....When you are going through suffering and somebody comes along and says, "it is not so bad, just forget it all." No...that is science in mind, not Bible....It is sorrowful, ~~alright,~~ And it is hard to go through it. But, the point for the christian is, that he <sup>is</sup> ~~rejoyeing is~~ in what God is ~~doing~~ in his life. He can say with perfect peace, "It is wonderful what God is <sup>Allowing</sup> ~~causing~~ in my life. And I want to tell you, it is very hard to suffer.....I am not kidding you...It is ~~hard~~....It is alfull, and I wish it would go away....But, I want to thank God that he is working his perfect plan in me. I know that I could never be what God wants me to be without suffering.

Now, that is a different perspective. But that is What God's Word teaches. And it is a wonderful truth.

James 1:3 <sup>Tells</sup> teaches us to "consider it all joy when you encounter various trials; knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect or mature work, that you may be mature ~~lacking~~ lacking nothing.."

Getting to the place in our life, where we can say with Paul, "whether I am abounding, praise the L<sup>U</sup>rd; or if I don't have anything, praise the Lord. If I am suffering, praise the Lord. If I am rejoicing, praise the Lord....."

Now, how do I get to that point? When God brings suffering into your life and you count it all joy and your are patient and you say, "listen, I know that God is <sup>Allowing</sup> ~~causing~~ this, and it is his will and I praise him for it." He will mature us. He will make us more stable then we could every be without it.....That is his plan.

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(2) There is a second <sup>are involved and that</sup> thing ~~involved and that~~ is <sup>you</sup> ministry.

Did you know that you cannot effectively minister without suffering? You cannot share that which you don't know anything about by experience. God will <sup>allow</sup> bring suffering into your life just so that you can minister to someone else. The Bible is filled with that... <sup>full</sup> ~~Especially in 2 Corinthians~~ ~~Just filled with it.~~

You know, some of the people who have ministered in my life more than anyone else, have ~~been~~ those who have been suffering severely. I am amazed how God puts the ~~extra~~ grace of Christ upon those who suffer deeply. You try to minister to them, but the turth of the matter is that they minister to you... They show you what it is really all about in terms of ministering. { God wants you to be more effective in your ministering . And he knows he must give suffering. Different kinds in a body of believers. WHY? Because each of us are needed in our kind to minister to other members in the body. And that is a beautiful thigg.

One of the greatest texts in in 2 Corinthians 1, if you would like to turn there, Verse 3-7. If every you find someone in deep suffering, here is a beautiful passage to share with them. @2 Corinthians 1:3-7  
VS 3 (read)

There isn't any comfort, by the way, for anyone of which God is not the source. That is a beautiful tmth. "God is the God of all comfort. So, if it isn't God comforting people, you might as will forget about it in terms of comfort. [ There is a lot of this sympathy stuff, you know. I have people who sympathize with you and you just don't feel the same as you do when somebody knows how to comfort you. YOU KNOW WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT.

And the comfort of the scriptures, says Romans 15:3, is the thing we need, you see.... Take the word of God and comfort.

<sup>and</sup> In terms of the second coming of Christ, when ~~it~~ it says that the Lord will descend from heaven with a shout, and Christ is coming, the Bible says in I Thessalonians 4:18: "Therefore, comfort one another with these wordsssss.

And we need to understand that it is the words of scripture that brings comfort. When I am suffering and I go to the Word of God, or somebody ministers the Word to me, that is comfort. Real Comfort...

Now, somebody can come up and say, "I know what you are going through. I had an operation; and bang..there they go...All you hear about is their operation....and you are getting sicker all the time...And..No.....It is the comfort of the Word of God.....Minister to people...

Now, notice this, it is a beautiful thing.....

Vs 4(read)

And that is the key....God <sup>allows</sup> ~~wants to bring~~ suffering <sup>in our</sup> into ~~your~~ life ~~and mine~~ so that we can minister more effectively to somebody else. Because with the same comfort that God brings to me, I can in ~~turn~~ give that to <sup>someone else</sup> anyone who is in trouble and affliction.

And that is why God <sup>allows</sup> ~~will give~~ you suffering. Because he wants you to use it to touch the life of somebody, else. And you know, that makes ~~little~~ sense.....

I remember <sup>share this verse with</sup> ~~talking~~ a lady in the hospital, ~~that~~ <sup>and</sup> she was suffering and she was a dear saint. And I am sure at the time, she didn't understand for her body hurt and she wanted to go home. But, ~~the~~ God used his word to bring comfort and the next time I visited her she was happy and had witnessed to her room mate and God had used her in a fantastic way. And that lady in the next <sup>had</sup> saw what God was doing in her life and it was a tremendous thing.....

And you see it all the time....We go around with blinders on acting as though God doesn't have any plan ~~that~~ in all the things he brings into our life. Oh, yes, he does.....He <sup>allows</sup> gives suffering to <sup>prepare you</sup> you ~~because~~ he ~~wants you to minister to someone else~~. He wants to prepare you for effective ministry. A wonderful thing.

(# ) The third area is motivation.

This comes right at the hard core of what is really wrong with us.



You see, we put our eyes so much on the ~~here~~<sup>here</sup> and now, that God has to come along and say, "Now, christian, here is a little remainder that it isn't the here and now, but it is the here after that you ought to be living for. So, he saps us with a little suffering. He gives us persecution, trouble, tribulation.. Why?.....to get our motivation strenghtened out...

I would like you to turn to 2 Corinthains chapter 4 and begin at v. 16.  
(read 4:16-18)

Did you notice the many contrast in ~~that one verse~~<sup>these verses</sup> just dealing with motivation.....Just look at it.....

Vs 17...."Our light affliction" ~~and our "weight of glory"~~<sup>produce an eternal weight of glory</sup>

Vs 17...."but for a moment and eternal"

Vs 18...."Things that are seen.....things that are not seen"

Vs 18 .. "Things temporal, and things eternal."

Tremendous contrast..Our Lord was consendly teaching on this subject  
But, <sup>the problem is</sup> we live in the here and now. It is a now generation. That is what we talk about all the time. Even, I am afraid, in Christian cicules we get so concerned about what we are doing now, that we forget about what we are ~~really~~ working for....were we are really headed..were we are going to spend eternity...

What is life?...it is just like a vapor which appears for alittle while and then it is gone.....So, we live 70,80, 90 years...So what?.....  
What is that in terms of eternity and even in terms of the history of the world?.....We are going to be with God forever....WHAT A WONDERFUL JOY OUGHT TO BE IN OUR HEARTS BECAUSE OF THAT TRUTH. - Amen

You see, God brings suffering just to strengten us out. It is like Romans 8:18 which says, "for I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.".....You see...it is a mtter of comparison.....God ~~brings~~<sup>permits</sup> the suffering, the trails, the persecutions, all of this.to..to ~~get our~~<sup>Keep an</sup> motivations strenghtened out.....

I would like you to turn to 1 Peter.....I Peter...In chapter 2 and 4 there are some tremendous concepts about suffering. I would like you to notice chapter 4: which emphasizes to me in addition to the fact that we are going to be in heaven and God sort of stretches out our motivations, in terms of now or later, whether we are working for things now or whether we are really seeing eternity values and view, THERE IS ONE OTHER MATTER.  
I Peter 4:14....(READ)

Now, I Corinthians 10:31 says "whether you eat or drink or what ever you do, do to the glory of God."

Man's basic problem is that we have sinned and come short of the glory of God.....Every day, you and I demonstrate, that we come short of the glory of God.....~~Some action~~, some thought, some word, some motive, we reveal that we do not want to glorify God, but we want to glorify ourselves. Every day we are face with this. Every day we are faced with the fact that we are sinners. Our actions, thoughts, words, come short of the glory of God.

Now, <sup>so</sup> you see, God <sup>allows</sup> brings suffering <sup>in</sup> into our lives to straighten out our motivations. So, we will give God the glory....

Paul, learned that in 2 Corinthians 12....He learned that God wants the glory and sometimes he will leave you with a heavy burden, a heavy trial in order to get your ~~motives~~ motives back in order, <sup>or ministry</sup>

You may have a physical problems and God may leave you with that problem, and you wonder, "Why doesn't God take it away." Well, because he wants to be glorified in your life. And he has loved you so much and has chosen you as one of the special ones through whom he wants to reveal the beauty of himself. He wants to glorify himself through your life...

God straightens us out in motivation

<sup>So</sup> And the question is: IF MY MOTIVATION IS NOT RIGHT, HOW DO I GET IT RIGHT?

I leave with you Hebrews 4:12.."the Word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, <sup>all</sup> able to judge the thoughts and intentions of your heart

I don't know the difference ~~is~~ between soul and spirit, but the Lord does. I read the statements in the Word and I know that there is a soul and a spirit. And I know that the Word can pierce to that dividing point.

But it is also a judge of the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

How do I get my motivation strightened out if I really want to??...  
*By submitting*  
~~TO SUBMIT MYSELF TO THE WORD OF GOD~~.....It is a two edged sword and it will show me why God is bring suffering into my life...  
*and it will teach me how to rejoice in suffering Amen*

Oh, my friends, how we need to saturate and fill ourselves with the Word of God....If you are going through suffering and persecution, fill yourself with the Word. Just keep going over and over it and I garantee you that you will discover that you will begin to think differently.

\* Our greatest need as believers is to let the Word saturate our minds. Because then we will think as God wants us to think....*we* will react as God wants us to react. And we will rejoice and praise God for what is happening in our lives....WHY?.....Because we will be renewing our minds daily in the Word of God. We need to keep at it....We need to let the Word of God be our comfort.....MAY GOD HELP US TO DO THIS.

Let us /Close with prayer

- a) mature
- b) ministers
- c) motivate