



CELL GROUP MATERIAL

15 MAR 2026

15 MAR SERMON

# When Suffering Meets Blessing

PASTOR BOBBY MATHEW

## Ice Breaker

**Question:** Share about a time when something difficult in your life ultimately led to something good. How long did it take before you could see the positive outcome?

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## Key Scriptures

- 1 Peter 3:14-15
  - 1 Peter 3:18
  - 1 Peter 4:1-2
  - 1 Peter 4:12-14
  - 1 Peter 4:19
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## Main Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Suffering for what is right results in blessing** - When we suffer for doing the right thing, God promises His favour and presence.
  2. **Christ's suffering accomplished our salvation** - Jesus suffered once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God.
  3. **Suffering breaks the grip of the old life** - Trials can reveal the emptiness of worldly pursuits and draw us closer to God.
  4. **Suffering prepares us for glory** - Our present trials are not meaningless; they're preparing us for future glory with Christ.
  5. **Suffering teaches us to trust completely** - In difficult seasons, we learn to depend entirely on God's faithfulness.
  6. **Our witness is strengthened through suffering** - How we respond to trials gives us opportunities to share the hope we have in Jesus.
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding the Message

1. The sermon states that "suffering for what is right results in blessing." How does this challenge our typical understanding of blessing? What does it mean to be blessed even while suffering?
2. Read 1 Peter 3:15 together. Why do you think Peter connects suffering with being prepared to give an answer for our hope? How are these two things related?
3. Pastor mentioned that verse 4:1 says "whoever suffers in the body is done with sin." What does this mean practically? How does suffering help break sin's power in our lives?

## Personal Reflection

4. **Share (if comfortable):** Is there an area in your life right now where you're doing what's right but still experiencing difficulty or suffering? How does today's message speak to that situation?
5. The sermon emphasized keeping "Christ as Lord" in our hearts during suffering (1 Peter 3:15). What are some practical ways we can keep Jesus at the center when going through difficult times?
6. Peter writes, "Do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal" (4:12). Why do we often act surprised when trials come? What would it look like to have a mindset that expects and prepares for trials?

## Going Deeper

7. Pastor shared that suffering can be an opportunity for witness. Can you think of a time when someone's faithful response to suffering impacted you or drew you closer to God?
8. Read 1 Peter 4:13 together. What does it mean to "participate in the sufferings of Christ"? How is this different from just experiencing general hardship?
9. The sermon mentioned that "suffering teaches us to trust." In what ways does suffering reveal what we're truly trusting in? How can trials actually strengthen our faith rather than weaken it?

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## Practical Application

### This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: Reframe Your Perspective

- Identify one difficult situation you're currently facing
- Write down how this trial might be producing blessing, strengthening your witness, or preparing you for glory
- Pray daily, thanking God for His presence in this situation

#### Option 2: Prepare Your Witness

- Following 1 Peter 3:15, write out your answer to this question: "Why do you have hope even when things are difficult?"
- Practice sharing this with someone in the group
- Be ready to share it "with gentleness and respect" when someone asks

#### Option 3: Die Daily to the Flesh

- Identify one specific area where your flesh desires something that goes against God's will
- Commit to saying "no" to that desire each day this week
- Journal about how choosing to "suffer in the flesh" brings freedom from sin's grip

#### Option 4: Encourage Someone in Suffering

- Think of someone you know who is going through a trial
- Reach out to them this week with a specific word of encouragement
- Remind them of God's faithfulness and the glory that's coming

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## Accountability

Pair up and share:

- Which action step you're committing to this week
- How your partner can pray for you
- Exchange contact information to check in mid-week

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## Prayer Time

### Prayer Prompts:

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God that He calls us blessed even in suffering
- **Confession:** Confess areas where you've doubted God's faithfulness during trials
- **Intercession:** Pray for those in your group facing specific trials or suffering
- **Declaration:** Declare that "I am blessed" even in the midst of current circumstances
- **Petition:** Ask God for:
  - Strength to keep Christ enthroned in your heart
  - Boldness to witness during trials
  - Freedom from the grip of old patterns and sins
  - Faith to trust Him when there's no clear end to suffering
  - A fresh touch of the Holy Spirit

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## Ministry Time:

- Ask if anyone needs prayer for specific suffering they're experiencing
- Invite anyone who needs to receive or be refueled by the Holy Spirit
- Pray for those who feel they're turning a corner and about to see God's breakthrough
- Pray specifically for your church to experience the revival and multiplication that God has promised

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## Closing Challenge

The pastor said: "There is meaning in what you go through...Would you trust the Lord here today?"

**This Week's Challenge:** Every day this week, when you face difficulty or suffering, pause and say out loud: "God, I thank you because you've got a blessing. You call me blessed right in the midst of this suffering. Your glory rests on me."

Then reach out to God in prayer and commit that situation to His faithful hands.

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### Additional Resources

- **Scripture Memory:** 1 Peter 3:14-15 or 1 Peter 4:12-13
  - **Further Reading:** 1 Peter chapters 1-5 (read the entire letter this week)
  - **Worship Songs:** Choose songs that focus on God's faithfulness in trials
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### Notes for Small Group Leaders

- Be sensitive to those who may be in the midst of deep suffering. Create a safe space for vulnerability.
  - Don't rush through the discussion questions. Allow silence for people to think and respond.
  - Be prepared to share your own experiences with suffering and how God has been faithful.
  - Some may need individual prayer or follow-up after the group meeting.
  - Remind the group that suffering doesn't mean God has abandoned them—His glory and Spirit rest on those who suffer for Christ.
  - Encourage the group about the church's upcoming season of breakthrough and revival that was mentioned in the sermon.
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**Remember:** The goal is not to have all the answers about suffering, but to point each other to Jesus, who suffered for us and promises to be with us through every trial. His presence is the ultimate blessing.

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