

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

FEBRUARY 11, 2024
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SERMON OUTLINE

WHERE IS JESUS IN MY PAIN?

SELECTED PASSAGES
REV. LITO VILLORIA

Pain is a reality of life. It is inevitable—no one is exempt from experiencing affliction. Pain comes in various shapes and sizes. More often than not, it comes as a surprise to anyone in any season of life. It can be caused by a physical ailment, emotional trauma, mental anguish, or spiritual attacks. It is not a question of “if” but “when” someone will experience pain (1 Peter 4:12; Isaiah 43:2).

Pain reminds us of our brokenness. God created man to worship Him for eternity. He was

given the privilege to have an intimate relationship with God. It was supposed to be a pain-free life—an eternity of peace in the presence of God. Unfortunately, sin entered the world and broke the intimacy between God and man (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:8, 15; 3:16-19, 23-24).

Pain will be common until the end. After the fall, the first family experienced pain with the murder of Abel. Job, a man who feared God, experienced unexplainable suffering. The Israelites, God’s chosen people, were oppressed by the king of Egypt. King David, a man after God’s own heart, felt forsaken by God amidst pain. And Jesus Christ Himself cried out at the cross, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me” (Genesis 4:8; Job 1:13-22; 2:7-10; Exodus 2:23; Psalm 22:1-2; Matthew 27:46)?

As Christians, we know by faith, Jesus will never leave us

nor forsake us. He will always be with us until the end. But sometimes, the severity of pain desensitizes us to the presence of God. When the affliction overwhelms us, we feel alone and abandoned. And, we ask ourselves, “Where is Jesus in my pain?” If you have experienced this in the past or are in this situation right now, do not lose heart. You are not alone. There are countless others who are in the same boat. What matters now is your response to the seeming absence of Jesus in your pain.

Pain teaches that following Jesus is not all about receiving what we want from God. But, rather, it involves accepting whatever God has in store for us. In this sermon, we will learn what we need to believe about Jesus and how we should respond to His seeming absence in the presence of pain (Exodus 2:24-25; Job 23:8-17; Revelation 21:3-4; Hebrews 4:14-16). ✨

DO THEY KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON?

REV. VINCE SYYAP

Hi! Hello! Good morning! Welcome! It is so nice to see you! These are the words we receive whenever we attend church. We answer with a smile and a greeting or two. But can we really say what’s going on? Is it okay to say that I am not okay?

At the lowest point of our lives, we need people or a safe community to share our problems and struggles with. But honestly, we are too afraid to show our vulnerability and weaknesses. We are afraid to be judged, to be gossiped about. We would rather keep it to ourselves and go through problems alone.

I remember when I lost my two children Tim and Josh in a car accident in 2012. Then three years later I lost my first wife Anna to cancer. Many times, I have walked into the church wondering how people can be full of smiles and laughter. This is perhaps a far too common experience in the church. People come struggling, maybe feeling guilty about themselves. They may even hate who they are at that very moment. They are welcomed by people who seem oblivious to what they feel. Do they care about me? Does God care about me?

We must remind ourselves that God loves us so much to the point that He gave his one and

only Son for us. The church, referring to a family of believers is the perfect conduit for us to experience this great love.

When I lost my kids, God used a ministry called “Grief Share” which ministered to me and my wife during this trying times. Grief Share is a ministry we have here at GCFSM for those who have lost loved ones in their lives. It helped us understand and process what happened to my children. Of course it could not take all the pain away but it was a big help.

The year after my children passed, Anna was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. My life was turned upside down, my faith tested. I asked God “How can this be happening to me while I am serving You?” Why Lord? Why was the cry of my heart.

The love of Christ came alive when I felt that people in the church cared about me. This is when the word “church” became real to me. Now when I speak of the word “church”, I am not referring to my home church GCFSM only. I am talking about believers of Jesus Christ from GCFSM, Saddleback, Covenant Evangelical in Singapore, CCF, Victory and other churches that came to our side to pray for me and help me in every way possible. I saw how God used the Christian community

to help my family. From helping me financially with medical expenses, providing transport, shelter and most of all prayers. I was truly blessed and felt the love of Christ thru the Christian community all over the world.

We as a church have to be conduits of the love of Christ to others. We do this by showing WE CARE, which is also the name of our counseling ministry here in GCFSM. We have trained counselors available to listen to you.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ’s sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too - 2 Cor. 1:3-5.

Truly God is amazing! He used people to minister to me so that I may experience His love. Are you willing to be used by God as a conduit of His love? Are you willing to listen to those who need a friend?

It is my prayer that each of us will experience the love and care of Christ through His church. ✨

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