Why Do Bad Things Happen? Because We Worship Comfort
11/15/26

Bible References:
Phil 3:7-11
Matthew 16:24-26
Romans 5:1-5
James 1:2-4

1. Becoming more like Christ includes joining in his suffering.

2. Suffering is not always the obstacle to spiritual growth, but rather the pathway.
   a. Our fixation on suffering and happiness often keeps us from growing in the midst of suffering.

Application:

1. Find ways to fight the lies of comfort.
2. Look to God in the midst of your suffering.
3. Pray for those you know who are suffering.

Reflection Questions:

1. Take a quick look at Matthew 13:44. How does that verse relate to what Paul says in Philippians 3:7–8? How would giving up his old life have been a form of suffering for Paul? How does he justify that sacrifice?

2. Look closely at Phil 3:10. Paul links "the power of His resurrection" directly with "sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death." Why do you think Paul places resurrection power and suffering in the same sentence? How do they relate to one another?

3. How would you define a mature Christian? What role does suffering play in spiritual maturity?

4. Much of our culture seems fixated on pursuing comfort and avoiding suffering at all costs. How can that mindset lead to spiritual bankruptcy rather than vibrant faith? What can you do in your marriage to model the joys of God's teaching on sex?

5. Suffering is not good in itself. How do we hold the tragedy and difficulty of suffering in tension with the truth that God can use it to mature our faith? What can you do if you are a parent to help your kids embrace God's sex.

6. Evangelical culture often treats suffering as a problem to be solved or a sign that something is wrong. How do the perspectives found in these passages reframe suffering, not as an interruption to spiritual growth, but as a pathway to it?