

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Have you ever been really hot? I mean...miserably hot? Describe the situation and what it was like.

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. The Israelites were miraculously delivered from the Egyptians and walked through the Red Sea. Read the story in Exodus 14.
 - a. After God saving them from the Egyptians the Israelites begin to grumble. Read Exodus 15:22-27.
 - b. The Israelites complain again. But, this time it involves food. Please read Exodus 16:1-21.
 - c. Now, in the next chapter, they complain...yet, again. Please read Exodus 17:1-7.
 - d. How is the situation in Exodus 17 different from Exodus 15?
3. Read Deuteronomy 8:1-2. Why did God lead the Israelites in the wilderness for forty years?
4. Timothy Keller said, "The gym exposes deficiencies in our bodies' strength and stamina—and appearance. You can wear all kinds of daytime clothes that hide or minimize aspects of your body that you would like to be less visible to the eye. But in the gym, you cannot hide them. There you and your coach (and unfortunately everyone around you) can see where you bulge where you shouldn't...When life is going along just fine, the flaws in our character can be masked and hidden from others and from ourselves. But when troubles

and difficulties hit, we are suddenly in “God’s gymnasium”—we are exposed. Our inner anxieties, our hair-trigger temper, our unrealistic regard of our own talents, our tendency to lie or shade the truth, our lack of self-discipline—all of these things come out.”

- a. Do you agree or disagree with Keller’s quote? How have difficult times exposed who you really are?
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5. Compare these verses about suffering: 1 Peter 4:12-13; 1 Peter 5:10; Luke 14:27; 2 Corinthians 4:17; and 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. What is the primary point of each passage for us today?
 6. What does Hosea 13:4-6, say about God’s love for us?
 7. According to Romans 5:3-4 and James 1:12, what is the purpose of our suffering? What does God desire of us?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- When Spiritually Immature people go through adversity they make sure everyone around them knows they aren’t happy.
- Spiritually mature people can take adversity and keep their mouth shut.
- Don’t forget how God delivered you from the last problem.
- Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. James 1:12 (NIV)