

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Sojourn // The Path of Trial

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is an irrational fear you have?

Reading: 1 Peter 1:1-12

Outline:

- I. This life is preparation (v. 1-5)
 - A. God's people have been chosen by the will of the Father for the purpose of obedience to Jesus in the power of the Spirit. The Triune God is at work in the lives of the elect, cultivating obedience to Jesus in this life.
 - B. Our present life is aimed toward an inheritance that Peter calls imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept in heaven, and thereby eternal. No matter how distant he feels, how badly your prayer life is struggling, or what sin you're struggling with, God is at work.
Q: *Where do you see God working in your life, despite the feeling of trial?*
- II. This life is trial (v. 6-9)
 - A. Peter states that this future we are being prepared for is a cause for rejoicing, even in the face of trials. Trials in life serve a purpose. They reveal our faith and cultivate praise. Trials cause us to trust in one we have not seen but who we will see in that glorious future.
 - B. "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." -C.S. Lewis
Q: *Have you ever heard "God's megaphone" in your pain?*
- III. This life is God's will (v. 10-12)
 - A. Peter places his audience at the center of God's plan and purpose that he has been revealing throughout history. The prophets spoke of the grace that was to be yours. God revealed his will to them not for their own sake but for yours.
 - B. Reflecting on our sin and brokenness is intended to lead us to the truth that Peter lays out and that is at the center of all of life, which is the truth of the Gospel. As you walk the path of preparation and trial, know with certainty what God's will is for your life: that you receive salvation in Jesus.
Q: *How do you remind yourself of your salvation in Jesus when facing trials?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How can we recognize when God is at work in our lives?
- 2) How can we remind ourselves of the "inheritance" Peter speaks about, especially while living in such a materialistic world?
- 3) Why must our suffering and trials reveal our faith, instead of other less painful situations?
- 4) How can we properly reflect on our sin and brokenness in a God-pleasing way?

Suggestions for further study:

- 2 Thessalonians 2:13 Q: How does this verse illustrate what our attitude should be during trials?
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 Q: How does this verse pertain to the "inheritance" Peter speaks about?

Closing Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for using your Son to give us salvation through his death and resurrection. Teach us to put our hope in you and rejoice during trials. Continue to strengthen us in this life as we prepare for the day we receive our inheritance with you. Amen.