

## Lecture 2 – Suffering: A Divine Vocation

### Outline

1. God’s vocation = call (Latin). God calls certain people to suffer.
2. Biblical examples
  - A. Job: “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him” (13:15)
    - \* Accusations from Job’s friends
    - \* Job’s interaction with God (“trust Me”)
  - B. Blind man (John 9)
    - \* Who sinned? Fallacy of false dilemma
    - \* Jesus’ answer: “Neither...purpose was to manifest God’s power”
  - C. Jesus
    - \* Singular vocation: to die
    - \* Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:38)
    - \* Simeon’s prophecy (Luke 2:34-35)
    - \* “My Father’s business” (Luke 2:49)
    - \* Jesus’ rebuke of Peter: “Get thee behind Me, Satan” (Matt. 16:21-23)
    - \* Jesus knew He had to suffer as the Messiah; He grieved immensely (Luke 22:44)
    - \* All the pain of human life was placed upon Jesus
3. Conclusion
  - A. Let the suffering grieve as Jesus did in the garden (Matt. 26:36-44)
  - B. “Let this cup pass from Me” (Matt. 26:39)
  - C. Jesus endured because He knew His vocation
  - D. Whenever God calls us to suffering and death, He always provides the means to endure

### Notes

### Questions to Consider

1. What is the most difficult aspect of enduring suffering?
2. Why would a loving God call anyone to suffer?
3. What is the meaning of filling up “what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ” (Col. 1:24)?

### Scriptural References

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 (“Sorrow is better than laughter”)  
2 Tim. 2:11-12