

## MESSAGE NOTES

### Where is God when life falls apart?

**INTRODUCTION** - *How much would you pay for...?*

#### SERMON SERIES

*A Study of 2 Corinthians -  
Bridezilla Returns*

**Last week** - Part 1 - 2 Cor. 1:3-4

**This week** - Part 2 - 2 Cor. 1:5-11

4. God never wastes pain - *The responsibility and joy of passing on our comfort*

- a. The suffering and comfort of Jesus (2 Cor. 1:5)
- b. The suffering and comfort of Paul (2 Cor. 1:6a)
- c. Paul's hope for the Corinthian church (2 Cor. 1:6b-7)

The God of comfort or...

5. How bad was Paul's suffering? (2 Cor. 1:8-9a)

6. Paul's interpretation of his deadly peril - *Don't rely on ourselves but God* (2 Cor. 1:9b-11)

4 Truths and Responses for when life falls apart

1. God is who he says he is and does what he says he does - so praise him, if even through tears.
2. You will experience suffering. Jesus suffered. Paul did. You will. So, solidify NOW that when it comes your hope and reliance will stay with Jesus.
3. What we do with suffering communicates MUCH! So, first, be comforted by Jesus and then pass to others.
4. The greatest suffering ever experienced brought salvation. So, never forget the power of God!

#### Gospel Application

*Are you willing to let God, through his gospel, bring you comfort? Are you willing to pass this gospel comfort on to someone else?*

## Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

#### 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 6If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort. 8We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. 9Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. 10He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, 11as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

#### Luke 18:31-33

31 Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. 32 He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; 33 they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."

#### Hebrews 4:13-16

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. 14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

How much would you pay for...?



How much would you pay for...?



A STUDY OF 2 CORINTHIANS



# BRIDEZILLA RETURNS

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IN COLOR



## 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

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## 2 Corinthians 1:3-11

<sup>8</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. <sup>9</sup>Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, <sup>11</sup>as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.



# Where is God when life falls apart?





# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 1. The Decision to Praise

### 2 Corinthians 1:3a

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 2. Who God is

- a. The Father of Jesus
- b. The Father of compassion
- c. The God of all comfort

## 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

<sup>3</sup>Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup>who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 3. What God does

### 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

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4. God NEVER wastes pain.

*The responsibility and joy of passing on our comfort*

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## 4. God NEVER wastes pain.

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### *a. Exhibit A: The Suffering and Comfort of Jesus*

#### **2 Corinthians 1:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. <sup>6</sup>If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup>And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

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## *a. Exhibit A: The Suffering and Comfort of Iesus*





# PROSPERITY GOSPEL

Jesus' blood washes your teeth whiter than snow.

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## *a. Exhibit A: The Suffering and Comfort of Jesus*

### **Luke 18:31-33**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; <sup>33</sup> they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again.”



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## *a. Exhibit A: The Suffering and Comfort of Jesus*

### **Luke 18:31-33**

<sup>31</sup> Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. <sup>32</sup> He will be delivered over to the Gentiles (Lk. 23:1, 25). They will mock him, insult him and spit on him (Mark 15:16-20); <sup>33</sup> they will flog him (Mt. 27:26) and kill him (Lk. 23:46). On the third day he will rise again.”

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## *a. Exhibit A: The Suffering and Comfort of Jesus*

### **Hebrews 4:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

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### *b. Exhibit B: The Suffering and Comfort of Paul*

#### **2 Corinthians 1:5-7**

<sup>5</sup>For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. <sup>6</sup>If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. <sup>7</sup>And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

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## *b. Exhibit B: The Suffering and Comfort of Paul*

### **2 Corinthians 11:23-25**

<sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup>

Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea.



# Where is God when life falls apart?

## *b. Exhibit B: The Suffering and Comfort of Paul*

### **Philippians 4:11-13**

<sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 4. God NEVER wastes pain.

*The responsibility and joy of passing on our comfort*

*c. Paul's hope for the Corinthian church*

**2 Corinthians 1:5-7**

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**The God of comfort**

**vs.**

**The god who makes comfortable**

# The God of comfort

vs.

# The god who makes comfortable



# The God of comfort

vs.

# The god who makes comfortable



nonbelievers. [#forthecity](#)

30 Sep



**darrinpatrick** Darrin Patrick

If you want a religion to make you feel comfortable, I certainly don't recommend Christianity. C.S. Lewis

30 Sep



**darrinpatrick** Darrin Patrick

A church for its city must assess whether it is accounting for the uniqueness of its neighborhood as it seeks to minister to it

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 5. How bad was Paul's suffering?

*The depth of comfort is commensurate to the suffering*

### 2 Corinthians 1:8-9a

<sup>8</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. <sup>9</sup>Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death.

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# Where is God when life falls apart?

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What was “suffered in the province of Asia?”

1. The riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-20:1)
2. A flare-up of some illness that was nearly fatal

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3. An unrecorded imprisonment when he faced execution

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4. Intense opposition from Jews

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What was “suffered in the province of Asia?”

1. The riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-20:1)
2. A flare-up of some illness that was nearly fatal
3. An unrecorded imprisonment when he faced execution
4. Intense opposition from Jews
5. Nothing specific – metaphor for relationship between him and the church

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 5. How bad was Paul's suffering?

*The depth of comfort is commensurate to the suffering*

**Whatever it was, this much is clear!**

**2 Corinthians 1:8-9a**

<sup>8</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. <sup>9</sup>Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death.

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 6. Paul's interpretation of his deadly peril *Don't rely on ourselves but God*

### A. He raises the dead! 2 Corinthians 1:9b-11

<sup>9b</sup>But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, <sup>11</sup>as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.



# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 6. Paul's interpretation of his deadly peril *Don't rely on ourselves but God*

### B. He delivers us. 2 Corinthians 1:9b-11

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# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 6. Paul's interpretation of his deadly peril *Don't rely on ourselves but God*

C. He answers prayers.

**2 Corinthians 1:9b-11**

<sup>9b</sup>But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. <sup>10</sup>He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, <sup>11</sup>as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

How much would you pay for...?

# **Where is God when life falls apart?**

## **4 Truths & Responses for when life falls apart**

- 1. God is who he says he is and does what he says he does – so praise him, if even through tears**

# Where is God when life falls apart?

## What if I'm not experiencing

1. The Father of Compassion

or

2. The God of all Comfort

or

3. The One who comforts  
us in ALL our troubles???



# Where is God when life falls apart?

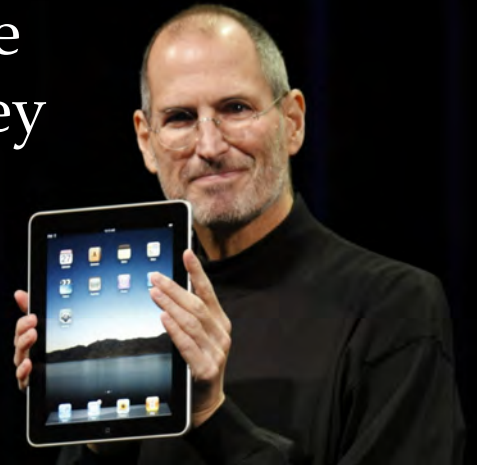
## 4 Truths & Responses for when life falls apart

1. God is who he says he is and does what he says he does – so praise him, if even through tears
2. You will experience suffering. Jesus suffered. Paul did. You will. So, solidify NOW that when it comes your hope and reliance will stay with Jesus.





“No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you, but someday not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it is quite true. Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma — which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.”



# Where is God when life falls apart?

## 4 Truths & Responses for when life falls apart

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2. You will experience suffering. Jesus suffered. Paul did. You will. So, solidify NOW that when it comes your hope and reliance will stay with Jesus.
3. What we do with suffering communicates MUCH! So, first, be comforted by Jesus and then pass to others.

“I don’t know how somebody could go  
through this without God.”

~Lindsey Kolnik

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# Gospel Application

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**Are you worshipping the god who makes  
comfortable or God of comfort?**



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**Has an experience of suffering caused you to keep God at arm's length?**

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**Are you worshipping the god who makes comfortable or God of comfort?**

**Has an experience of suffering caused you to keep God at arm's length?**

**Are you willing to let God, through his gospel, bring you comfort? Are you willing to pass this gospel comfort on to someone else?**