

Suffering Productively

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance...” Romans 5:3 NLT

Joseph and Daniel

- Taken out of their land and carried away as slaves.
- Suffered unjustly.
- God gifted both men the ability to interpret dreams.
- End up in some of the most prominent positions.

See Suffering as an Opportunity

- Look for God’s blessing amidst suffering.
 - “God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.” - Daniel 1:17 NLT
 - “The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did...” - Genesis 39:2 NLT
- Both men excelled despite their circumstances
- How can we respond amidst suffering in a way that is honoring and glorifying to God?

Leave it in God’s Hands

- Joseph and Potiphar’s wife (Genesis 39:8-9)
- Daniel and Belshazzar (Daniel 5:17)

Set your mind to follow God: Unconditionally and Un-Circumstantially

- Daniel and the Lion’s Den
 - Daniel didn’t break habit in the face of adversity.
 - Daniel 6:10
 - What habits do we have in place that “safeguard our faith”?
 - Daniel considered God Holy above anything else (even life).
- Joseph recognized God was moving throughout his suffering and allowed that to dictate his response.
 - Genesis 50:19-20