

Got Pain: Why and What to Do!

"Healing" series- Part 02

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: If you have a scar or two on your body, discuss what it means to you whenever you see that scar. What does that scar represent to you?

Let's get on the same page -

In the month of March many will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. He was a Catholic saint said to be responsible for Christianity flourishing on the island of Ireland during the 5th century. The following is one of the many legends told about St. Patrick:

The story is told about the baptism of King Aengus by St. Patrick. Sometime during the baptism rite, St. Patrick leaned on his sharp-pointed staff and inadvertently stabbed the king's foot. After the baptism was over, St. Patrick looked down at all the blood, realized what he had done, and begged the king's forgiveness. "Why did you suffer this pain in silence," the Saint wanted to know. The king replied, "I thought it was part of the ritual."

Depending on our perspective and mindset, we can view personal pain in different ways. What are some common reasons that are given for why we experience suffering and pain?

Today we will look at two examples found in the life of King David. In both cases, David experiences great suffering.

Book: 2 Samuel 12:9-14 and 2 Samuel 16:5-14

2Sa 12:9 Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. 10 From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own. 11 "This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. 12 You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel." 13 Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." Nathan replied, "Yes, but the LORD has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin. 14 Nevertheless, because you have shown utter contempt for the LORD by doing this, your child will die."

2Sa 16:5 As King David came to Bahurim, a man came out of the village cursing them. It was Shimei son of Gera, from the same clan as Saul's family. 6 He threw stones at the king and the king's officers and all the mighty warriors who surrounded him. 7 "Get out of here, you murderer, you scoundrel!" he shouted at David. 8 "The LORD is paying you back for all the bloodshed in Saul's clan. You stole his throne, and now the LORD has given it to your son Absalom. At last you will taste some of your own medicine, for you are a murderer!" 9 "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?" Abishai son of Zeruiah demanded. "Let me go over and cut off his head!" 10 "No!" the king said. "Who asked your opinion, you sons of Zeruiah! If the LORD has told him to curse me, who are you to stop him?" 11 Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, "My own son is trying to kill me. Doesn't this relative of Saul have even more reason to do so? Leave him alone and let him curse, for the LORD has told him to do it. 12 And perhaps the LORD will see that I am being wronged and will bless me because of these curses today." 13 So David and his men continued down the road, and Shimei kept pace with them on a nearby hillside, cursing as he went and throwing stones at David and tossing dust into the air. 14 The king and all who were with him grew weary along the way, so they rested when they reached the Jordan River.

Let's get into the Word:

What led to David's decision to direct the death of a faithful soldier, Uriah?

Make a list of the consequences of his decision?

How is it David would experience these dire consequences for many years and yet he had been forgiven by God (verse 2 Sam. 12:13)?

How can experiencing the consequences of our sins be "for our good"?

Now to the second account of suffering in 2 Samuel 16. King David, along with a few loyal followers, are escaping from the threat of death by the hands of Absalom, the son of David.

What was Shimei's problem with King David? Was he correct in his assessment of David's dealings with King Saul and Saul's family? Why or why not?

How do you handle hurtful accusations against yourself? What would be a Biblical response to unwarranted criticism?

Why did David insist that no one should harm Shimei for his disrespectful actions toward the King of Israel?

Discuss verse 2 Samuel 16:11 in more detail: What is David's understanding of Shimei's actions toward him? What did David mean when he said, "*the Lord has told him to do it*"?

What is David's hope during this time of being vilified and dishonored by Shimei?

In those times when you do not understand the cause or reason for your pain, is there anything you can learn from David's experience?

Let's get real (with self!)

Is there a painful situation from your past in which you need to ask God, "Lord, what do you want me to learn from this experience"?

How can you help someone this week with the truths from today's study?