



A Word for the Week Carolyn Kemp

Acts 8, The Power of Suffering. We live in a world of quick fixes where suffering is senseless and should be avoided. But should it?

Timothy Keller, "Suffering is at the very heart of the Christian faith. It is not only the way Christ became like us and redeemed us, but it is one of the main ways we become like him and experience his redemption. And that means that our suffering, despite its painfulness, is also filled with purpose and usefulness." Four thoughts from Acts 8:-

1--God makes persecution & suffering serve Mission V1-8. When Paul was in prison, he became a great means of blessing for others, his confinement didn't stop him. Read *Acts 8:1-4*.

Jesus said in Acts 1:8 the Holy Spirit was to empower missions in Jerusalem and beyond. Acts 8:1 Luke uses those two words in that order, "*Judea and Samaria*" God fulfilled His plan through this persecution, God knew in Acts 1:8 where his people would be in Acts 8:1! Suffering challenges our preoccupation with things, our ease with prosperity. Persecution didn't stop the church in Acts – it ignited it! They fled, they scattered but they never stopped proclaiming Christ!

2--God makes challenging places fruitful V4-25. We need to go where He takes us. He took Philip to Samaria and "a desert road", who'd want to go there! Philip goes and shares the gospel, many come to faith, including the Queen of Ethiopia's Treasurer! God takes us to challenging places but every place he takes us there's purpose, there's someone we need to meet and someone who needs to meet us, there's a promise that he'll be with us in that place! God is in the business of fruitfulness - even in our sufferings, our struggles. What's our challenging place right now? Our street, our own home, isolation, a family member, colleague? Trust God to make your challenging places fruitful!

3--God makes adversaries into proclaimers. V3 "*But Saul was ravaging the church*" He shows no mercy, but later he'd turn to Jesus on the Damascus road. We need to live with hope: a persecutor can become a friend in Christ. That's the way God is. That's the kind of power he has. Pray for someone you know to meet Jesus in our 12hoursofPRAYER. That's the power of suffering, it challenges and changes people – it speaks in ways nothing else can. **4--God makes joy from suffering.** Proclaiming Christ brings persecution, but proclaiming Christ also brings joy. The Holy Spirit moves when Christ is proclaimed. See *V8 and V39*. Why? *V5 "*Philip proclaimed Christ.*"* Christ alone has the power to deliver from Satan, to heal our bodies, to forgive our sins, make us right with God. If you trust Jesus, then no matter how severe the suffering is, you have hope and joy. *Charles Stanley "When you become consumed by God's call on your life, everything will take on new meaning and significance. You will begin to see every facet of your life – including your pain – as a means through which God can work to bring others to Himself."*

Update on Schedule!

Online services continue on Zoom on

Sunday June 7 Speaker
Sunday June 21 Speaker
Sunday July 5 Speaker



Saturday Coffee

Mornings on Zoom

Saturday May 30 10-11.30
Saturday June 13 10 – 11.30
Saturday June 27 10 – 11.30



Prayer

12hoursofPRAYER every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
7am – 7pm



Giving

Remember that we can still easily give online during this time. Please contact Peggy on office@tab.church



So NOT ONLINE?

Do you fancy sharing your thoughts on Scripture with a buddy by phone? Interested, please contact Peggy in the church office at 01902 428962.



Prayer Corner

Please contact the office to be added to the Tab Connect WhatsApp group for current prayer requests.

Community Prayer Line

Please feel free to share the new **Tab Community Prayer Line** details for anyone who wants prayer! You can call or text at 07468 598632 or email on prayer@tab.church. This same information is available for our local neighbours on the church Wayside Pulpit outside the church.

Story Corner

Kath Reed shares a story and answer to prayer with us. About a month ago a 36- year-old Doctor was taken into ICU having deteriorated with Covid-19. They were on a ventilator and continued to deteriorate over the next 10 days suffering a collapsed lung and their oxygen levels were down to 30%. It was a miracle they stayed with us but thanks to continued prayer finally we had breakthrough and 4 days ago they were given a tracheotomy to see how their breathing would be and they coped with that, then miraculously yesterday they were conscious, talking and showing no mental impairment at all. They are not 'out of the woods' but this is a miracle!! Thanks Kath!! ☺

Bible Quiz on Luke

1. Which two books of the New Testament did Luke write? A.) Colossians & Galatians, B.) Luke & Colossians, C.) Luke & The Acts, D.) Galatians & The Acts
2. What was Luke's occupation? (Colossians 4:14) A.) fisherman, B.) tax collector, C.) physician, D.) soldier
3. Which famous missionary did Luke travel and teach with? (2 Timothy 4:11) A.) John, B.) Paul, C.) James, D.) Peter
4. Which of these narratives was recorded only by Luke? (Luke 1) A.) visit of the wise men, B.) the turning of water to wine, C.) visit of Gabriel to Mary, D.) raising Lazarus from the dead
5. Which of these narratives was recorded only by Luke? (Luke 2:8-18) A.) visit of Nicodemus, B.) Jesus' ascension, C.) visit of the shepherds to baby Jesus, D.) the woman at the well
6. Which of these narratives was recorded only by Luke? (Luke 2:41-52) A.) Jesus' sermon on the mount, B.) Jesus teaching in the temple as a 12-year old, C.) Jesus washing the feet of His Apostles
7. Jesus cleansing the temple, D.) Which of these narratives was recorded only by Luke? (Luke 22:44) A.) Jesus sweating blood, B.) Jesus being fed vinegar, C.) Jesus being spit upon, D.) Jesus being nailed to the cross
8. Which of these narratives was recorded only by Luke? (Luke 23:39-42) A.) Jesus' discussion with the thief on the cross, B.) Jesus' baptism, C.) Jesus forgiving the women taken in adultery, D.) the woman washing Jesus' feet with her hair
9. Which of these narratives was recorded only by Luke? (Luke 24:42-43) A.) Jesus eating fish and honey following His Resurrection, B.) Jesus casting out devils, C.) Jesus healing the woman with the issue of blood, D.) Jesus giving sight to the blind man
10. Which of these narratives was recorded only by Luke? (Luke 10:1-24) A.) Jesus raising the daughter of Jairus, B.) Jesus being a carpenter, C.) Jesus appointing and sending forth the Seventy, D.) Jesus' discussion with Zacchaeus

Family News

Dorothy MacDonald - Our dear sister went home to God on April 9 2020 after struggling with Covid 19. Dorothy's life was lived so fully for God, she was fully prepared to reach her eternal home even though she had plans to get involved in all sorts of ministries before lockdown. Her funeral has been arranged for Tuesday June 9 at 12 noon Bushbury. We are unable to attend as current regulations prohibit that, but we will celebrate her amazing life when we return to Church. So we want to encourage you all as her spiritual family to light a candle on that day as a sign that we are celebrating the wonderful life she shared with us all. Pray for Richard her son and the wider family and give thanks for Dorothy. "Well done, good and faithful servant..."