

# THE BLESSING OF HARDSHIP

ROMANS 5:3

## INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Job reiterates that life is hard. (Job 14.1; 5.7)
2. The hardships of life can be a blessing when we choose to react to them in a positive way. (Job 27.2)

## I. WHY DO WE SUFFER?

- A. There are three things we possess.
  1. We possess justification. (Rom. 5.1,9)
  2. We possess reconciliation. (Rom. 5.1,10)
  3. We possess salvation. (Rom. 5.2)
- B. There are three things that do.
  1. We stand faithful to God. (Rom. 5.2)
  2. We rejoice in hope. (Rom. 5.2)
  3. We glory in tribulations. (Rom. 5.3)
- C. We suffer because it makes us stronger. (Rom. 5.3,4)

## II. HOW DO WE SUFFER?

- A. There are two words that help us face suffering.
  1. **HEBREWS 12.2:** *“looking unto Jesus.”* It carries the idea of blocking out everything else but Jesus.
  2. **HEBREWS 12.3:** *“And let us consider Him.”* It carries the idea of thinking about Jesus. (cf. Matt. 14.30)
- B. We deal with suffering by looking to Jesus as an example.
  1. Jesus endured the cross by seeing the good. (Heb. 12.2)
  2. Don't get discouraged, but see the good. (Heb. 12.3,4)

## III. FOR WHOM DO WE SUFFER?

- A. **1 PETER 3.13-17:** This is a passage about suffering.
- B. By suffering, we are given the opportunity to show Jesus to the world by the way we suffer.
  1. We can show others that Jesus is special. (1 Pet. 3.15)
  2. We can show others that we are different. (1 Pet. 3.15)

**CONCLUSION:** If handled right, hardships can be a blessing.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

AUGUST 25, 2024

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

August 25, 2024

## MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

## DANGEROUS ASSUMPTIONS

A young engineer who graduated with distinction was leaving the office at 3:45 p.m. when he found the acting CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper in his hand. “Listen,” said the CEO, “this is a very sensitive and important document, and my secretary is not here. Can you make this thing work?”

“Certainly,” said the young engineer. He turned on the machine, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button. “Excellent, excellent!” said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine, “I just need one copy.”

Making assumptions can get us into a lot of trouble. In relationships we make assumptions about what the other person said or was thinking, and conflict follows. When flared tempers are back under control, we might feel silly to learn that it was a simple misunderstanding.

How many times have we read a scripture assuming that we know what it means? Then someone points out that the inspired author intended something entirely different, and all this time we have been making a wrong application (Matt. 22.29).

The wise man wrote, *“He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him”* (Prov. 18.13). Never make assumptions. Your boss may not know what he is doing. CLP

# SUCCESSFUL EVANGELISM

## Acts 1:8

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Acts is the greatest success story of individuals converted to Christ. (Acts 2.47; 4,4; 5.14; 6.7; 9.31; 16.5)
  - a) The book of Acts follows the efforts of five men.
  - b) The book of Acts records five trips. (Acts 8.4; Col. 1.6)
  - c) **COLOSSIANS 1.6:** The gospel *“has also in all the world”*
2. Success comes by following the New Testament pattern.

### I. SEE YOUR POTENTIAL

- A. **ACTS 1.8:** *“You shall be”* (cf. Acts 1.2)
- B. The apostles had spent three years accomplishing great things, but there was still work to do. (Mark 3.14,15)
- C. It does not matter how much we have done, we need to see the potential of what we can still do. (Matt. 28.18-20)

### II. REALIZE YOUR PURPOSE

- A. **ACTS 1.8:** *“You shall be witnesses”*
- B. Witness (martus): Give evidence by personal experience.
- C. Our purpose is to make disciples. (cf. 1 Cor. 1.17)

### III. TEACH BY PREACHING

- A. **ACTS 1.8:** *“You shall be witnesses of Me”*
- B. The message that the apostles were to take to the world is Jesus. (Acts 1.1; 2.22,36; 6.14; 8.35; 9.20)
- C. We need to tell others about Jesus. (1 Cor. 2.2)

### IV. REACH YOUR PROSPECTS

- A. **ACTS 1.8:** *“You shall be witnesses of Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*
- B. The disciples started locally and spread the gospel throughout the known world. (Acts 5.42; 17.6)
- C. Do you know people who need the gospel? (Acts 10.24)

### V. KNOW THE POWER

- A. **ACTS 1.8:** *“But you shall receive power...”*
- B. Where did they get this power? (Acts 1.8; 2.4,22)
- C. Our success is from the gospel. (Rom. 1.16)

**CONCLUSION:** Evangelism is one soul concerned about another.

# JESUS CHRIST: OUR PASSOVER LAMB

The Passover was one of the most significant events in Israel’s history. It was an event to be remembered (Ex. 12.14,26,27). It was a celebration that marked the end of four centuries of enslavement and a journey to the land that God had promised Abraham so many years ago (Gen. 15.8,13,14; Ps. 105.42-45). But the Passover was also symbolic of Jesus (1 Cor. 5.7). Consider Jesus Christ as our Passover Lamb.

**THE PURITY OF JESUS** is symbolized by the purity of the Passover lamb. In giving the Israelites instructions on choosing a Passover lamb to sacrifice, God told them to choose a lamb *“without blemish”* (Ex. 12.5). The word “blemish” is a generic word for a defect. The lamb they were to choose was not to have any kind of fault.

Turning to the New Testament, the apostle Peter makes reference to Jesus as *“a lamb without blemish and without spot”* (1 Pet. 1.19). Jesus was accused of blasphemy and stirring up the crowd (Matt. 26.65; Luke 23.5). But there was no wrongdoing that could be found. Later, John wrote that Jesus *“committed no sin”* (1 Pet. 2.22).

**THE PURPOSE OF JESUS** is symbolized by the purpose of the Passover lamb. After nine plagues afflicted the Egyptians, one plague remained. God was going to take the life of every firstborn. However, the children of Israel would be exempted when they take the blood of the sacrificed lamb and paint it on their doorframe (Ex. 12.7). The Passover lamb was chosen as a sacrifice that would save Israel.

In the New Testament, Jesus as our Passover Lamb also serves a purpose. The Hebrew writer tells us that Jesus was given a body for the purpose of offering it as a sacrifice (Heb. 10.5). During His final week, Jesus becomes sorrowful. He tells His disciples how He felt and says, *“But for this purpose I have come to this hour”* (John 12.27). Jesus came for the purpose of being a sacrifice (Heb. 9.26).

**THE POWER OF JESUS** is symbolized by the power of the blood of the lamb to save. The blood that was painted on the doorframe is referred to as a sign (Ex. 12.13). The idea of a sign is to indicate that the house with the blood was to be passed over. The blood captured God’s attention so that the household would be saved.

In the New Testament, the blood of Jesus serves as the cleansing agent to wash away our sins. There is nothing as powerful as His blood. There is nothing as valuable to purchase our salvation. It is only the blood of Jesus that can save (1 Pet. 1.18,19; 1 John 1.7).

In the Old Testament, the Israelites knew salvation through the Passover lamb. Today, we can know salvation through Jesus, our Passover Lamb.