**04-20-2025**

# ***Suffering and Victory***

**When Everyone Else Thought He Had Lost, He Had Already Won**

**Luke 24:17-21** - *He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces.* [18] *Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."* [19] *"What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people.* [20] *BUT our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him.* [21] *We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.*

**The First Easter Was Filled With Confusion, Disappointment, And Misunderstanding**

**Hardships And Troubles Have A Way Of Blinding Us To The Truth Of God**

**No One Likes Suffering, Let Alone Embracing It**

**2 Timothy 2:1-7** - *Timothy, my dear son, be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus.* [2] *You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.* [3] *Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus.* [4] *Soldiers don't get tied up in the affairs of civilian life, for then they cannot please the officer who enlisted them.* [5] *And athletes cannot win the prize unless they follow the rules.* [6] *And hardworking farmers should be the first to enjoy the fruit of their labor.* [7] *Think about what I am saying. The Lord will help you understand all these things.*

**Luke 9:44-45** - *"Listen to me and remember what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies."* [45] *But they didn't know what he meant. Its significance was hidden from them, so they couldn't understand it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.*

**We Can't Have A Resurrection Without A Crucifixion**

**Come To Terms With The Reason For Christ's Death**

**We All Have A Hard Time Connecting Adversity With Victory**

**Luke 24:1-9** - *But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared.* 2 *They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.* 3 *So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.* 4 *As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes.* 5 *The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive?* 6 *He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee,* 7 *that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."* 8 *Then they remembered that he had said this.* 9 *So they rushed back from the tomb to tell his eleven disciples—and everyone else—what had happened.*

**The Mission of Jesus Joins Two Pieces: Suffering And Freedom**

**God Seeks To Justify Us Through Our Suffering As Well**

**Insult And Struggle Had To Come Before Exaltation And Promise**

**Our Suffering Now Might Be The Very Thing That Inspires Us To Rise Again**

**Suffering And The Resurrection Life Often Come Hand And Hand**