

Suffering for Others

Romans 15:1-12

3/12/17

Sermon Discussion Questions

1. The sermon started this week with the question “Have you ever suffered because of another Christian’s sin?” Take a moment and have a couple of members share their answer to this question. If they have, what happened?
2. Pastor Jim took us to Romans 15 and in verses 1 and 2 pointed out what the “instruction for today” was. Have someone read the verses for the group and discuss what those that are strong in faith are called to do.
3. We were challenged by the heaviness in Paul’s words as Pastor Jim explained that the word used for “ought” is actually the word used for “obligated.” Is this an easy command to follow? Why or why not? How do verses like the ones mentioned this morning (Luke 17:10, Luke 14:27) help us see what is being asked of us?
4. The point is that Christians with a stronger faith are morally obligated to endure suffering resulting from the struggles of weaker Christians. The question is, why? For the answer, Pastor Jim took us to Romans 12:3-4 and Psalm 69. Have the scriptures read and then discuss why we are called to endure this suffering.
5. We are called to bear the failings of others because it is what our Savior did for us. This however is not easy, so how are we supposed to endure it? Read verse 5 and discuss what God granting us endurance and offering us encouragement looks like. If there are people willing to share examples have them do so from their own lives.
6. Pastor Jim shared this reflection from verse 5: God sees you in the midst of your suffering because you are being like Jesus. He will provide you with the endurance necessary and the encouragement to know what to do. Knowing what to do in each situation is hard to do but we know He will guide and direct if we seek Him. What are ways that you listen to God, what disciplines and habits help you hear His voice?
7. Because Jesus was willing to suffer for the weaknesses and sins of others, Gentiles and Jews are now able to praise God. As you close your time together and prepare to pray, take a moment to reflect on a circumstance in which you might be called to endure suffering for another. What might be the end result God is trying to accomplish through your suffering? What might he be trying to do in the midst of your sacrifice?

Take time to listen to each other and pray for each other as you close.