

Date: December 10, 2017

Sermon Title: The Abundant Mercy of God and the Necessity of Suffering

Speaker: Dan Yacoviello

Scripture text(s): 1 Peter 1:3-12

- 1) Read 1Peter 1:3. How is God's abundant mercy tied to salvation?
 - 2) Why is the hope we've been born into called a "living" hope?
 - 3) Read 1 Peter 1:4. Name the three ways our inheritance is described. Why are these negative terms?
 - 4) Where is this inheritance kept for us? Why?
 - 5) 1 Peter 1:5 refers to God guarding us. What does it mean to have your salvation guarded by the power of God?
 - 6) Read 1 Peter 1:7. Why is it necessary for believers to suffer?
 - 7) In 1 Peter 1:9, what is the purpose of our faith being tested?
 - 8) Dan said that suffering is necessary for our hope, our sanctification, and God's glory. How have you recognized this in your own life? How will you allow God to refine you to bring about the genuineness of your faith for God's glory?
 - 9) Think about the photo of the hillside of grapevines that were devastated and destroyed by a microscopic pest. How have you seen God use devastation in your life to bring about beauty just as the green grass resulted from devastation on the hillside?
 - 10) If you're suffering right now but haven't seen beauty brought out from it, how does this redemption (the hillside photo) bring you hope and encouragement to keep pressing through?
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Group Prayer Time:

Have 1 – 2 people in your group pray through each part of the A.C.T.S. prayer acronym.

1. **Adoration** – How is God's character reflected in this week's passage? Let that revelation lead you to worship and adore God.

2. **Confess** – The Word of God exposes and uncovers sin. Respond to that conviction by agreeing with what God has said about your sin.
3. **Thanksgiving** – Where do you see God working? Thank God for his faithfulness in your life and the lives of others.
4. **Supplication** – God’s Word helps us understand his purposes and plans. Ask God to give you the desires of his heart as you pray for your needs and the needs of others.

Pray for Missions:

This week in your group prayer time, have someone pray for this missions’ effort. Different missions will be highlighted every week.

- **Local & International Missions** – Pray for Phyllis Hendry with Lead Like Jesus. The vision of Lead Like Jesus is, “Someday everyone, everywhere will be impacted by someone who leads like Jesus.” Their mission is to glorify God by inspiring and equipping people to lead like Jesus. They believe that God is glorified when Jesus is lifted up when we allow him to work freely in and through us. Lead Like Jesus is not another leadership program; it’s an international movement. Phyllis is the CEO of Lead Like Jesus and her team of dedicated men and women train and equip people through conferences, workshops, coaching, and online resources to help them lead their churches, businesses, schools, homes, etc. in a way that reflects Christ. Pray for this movement to spread across the nation and around the world.