

Church of the Valley
God's Divine Story Revealed through (Otherwise) Ordinary People
Part 3- The Good of Affliction
January 17, 2021

The word “**affliction**” is a word that brings to mind physical and mental suffering. Someone who is afflicted is disturbed or possibly frightened because of danger, pain, or some kind of distress.

12 Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. 13 But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. 14 If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. 1 Peter 4:12-14

SERMON TEXT - Psalm 119:67-72

Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I obey your word.

68 You are good, and what you do is good;
teach me your decrees.

69 Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,
I keep your precepts with all my heart.

70 Their hearts are callous and unfeeling,
but I delight in your law.

71 It was good for me to be afflicted
so that I might learn your decrees.

72 The law from your mouth is more precious to me
than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.—Psalm 119:67-74

What are the lessons from King David?

1.) DAVID'S STATE BEFORE THE AFFLICTION - HE HAD GONE ASTRAY

Before I was afflicted I went astray, Psalm 119:67

(A divided heart)

1 Israel was a spreading vine; he brought forth fruit for himself. As his fruit increased, he built more altars; as his land prospered, he adorned his sacred stones. 2 Their heart is deceitful, and now they must bear their guilt. The Lord will demolish their altars and destroy their sacred stones. 3 Then they will say, “We have no king because we did not revere the Lord. But even if we had a king, what could he do for us?” Hosea 10:1-3

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:7-10

10. I trusted in the Lord when I said, “I am greatly afflicted”; 11 in my alarm I said, “Everyone is a liar.”

12 What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? 13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Psalm 116:10-13

2.) DAVID'S REDEEMED STATE AFTER THE AFFLICTION - HE BECAME DEVOTED TO HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes. Psalm 119:71

(A committed heart)

I know, Lord, that your laws are righteous, and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me. Psalm 119:75

EMBODYING GOD'S TRUTH

Do not lose heart, when afflicted, embody the love of God.

Hebrews 12:4-11

God disciplines us to gain our attention to bring about necessary changes in our lives. We will know when He is not pleased with our actions.

LIFE QUESTION?

For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you. 2 Corinthians 2:4. KJV

Who is God calling you to testify of His amazing love?

- Reach out to someone in the COV Community. A note, a call, a text. Reach-out to display God's abundant love through you.
- Reach out to someone to whom you know has a different political position than you do to reflect God's abundant love.

The antidote for our affliction is not pulling others into our muck - but to show our abundant love for others. Only God can use us in the deepest of our despair to give love to someone that needs to experience God's love.