

# LWML Texas District

February 12, 2024

Meditation

## Where Have You Been?

When you look back on your life, you may see places you wish you had made a different choice. Are there any things you wish you could redo? Maybe there are times you wish you would have just stayed home, not had the conversation, not taken the job, or gone to a different school.

When you look back at all the various choices of your life, do you see how God worked through those situations? For some, maybe it is still unclear why God has allowed it to happen. Sometimes, we even cry out in anguish saying, “Lord! Where are you?! Where have you been amid my suffering?! Why God????”

Job knew all about this type of physical and emotional suffering at the loss of his family, wealth, and physical health. Jeremiah knew about suffering when it came to seeing how Jerusalem would be destroyed because of the evil idolatry practices of the Israelites. Jeremiah even physically felt the pain of rejection and persecution because of speaking the truth of what was to come. The priests had Jeremiah thrown in a cistern to die of starvation and be imprisoned by the Babylonians (Jeremiah 38).

Paul knew what it was like to have a physical thorn in his flesh. *So to keep me [Paul] from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited* (2 Corinthians 12:7). Paul even lists his persecutions for the sake of the Gospel in 2 Corinthians 11:25–28.

So, what about us? Where is God when we are struggling, suffering, lonely, or enduring hardships for speaking the truth or for the sake of the Gospel? *Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing* (James 1:2–4).

*Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed* (1 Peter 4:12–13).

At the end of the great commission, Jesus tells us, “*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20b).

The life of Jesus illustrates to us just how much God was willing to go through suffering for us and with us. Jesus became flesh to bear our burdens and cleanse us from sin. He knows our weaknesses. He knows our struggles. He knows about the choices we consider.

*Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:14–16).*

Read Matthew 6:25–34. God is with us. He loves us. He continues to guide our steps even in times of darkness and anxiety.

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