

Suffering in Silence

Mark 1:12-13

7/6/10

Introduction: People suffer in a variety of ways and to differing degrees. We suffer physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually and we may even pray to God to remove the pain and hardship. However, the Lord uses suffering to accomplish His divine purpose for our lives (**2 Corinthians 12:9**). Job is a biblical story that shows us that even God's people will suffer sometimes. Many people have read how the Bible described Job as perfect, upright, one that feared God, and one who eschewed evil (**Job 1:1**). Nevertheless, Job experienced a great deal of suffering. There are times when we must suffer in silence and the Lord will direct us because the journey won't end until the Lord brings us out. In our lesson tonight, we are going to see how even Jesus had to suffer in silence.

Verse 12

The Direction

This verse shows us that Jesus was directed (Spirit driveth) to go to the wilderness where He would be tempted by the devil. He was tempted right after making the decision to be baptized (**Mark 1:10-11**). At this point, Jesus was **declaring** His total commitment to God and to His mission. When we make the decision to be totally committed to the work of God, the devil will show up. God is omniscient (knowing everything), however, the Spirit sends Jesus into a place where the enemy will be present. Although God tempts no one (**James 1:13**), He sometimes allows Satan to tempt us (**Job 1:8-12**). We must remind ourselves that the enemy's **presence** cannot compare to the Lord's power. Our trials and temptations are to be stepping-stones, not obstacles. They are opportunities for the Spirit of God to use in making us stronger and better **equipped** to do greater things for God. We should not complain about our trials and temptations, but be happy about them because it is for our **benefit** (**Hebrews 5:8**) (**James 1:2-3**) (**1 Peter 4:12-13**). It may seem that it was a bad choice to lead Jesus into the wilderness, but God's will for our life will never lead us were His grace cannot keep us. He will always lead us in the right place. The Word of God says the Lord orders the steps of a righteous man.

Verse 13

The Determination

(and he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan and was with wild beasts)

This verse shows us that Jesus is by Himself, but He is not complaining or crying. It also shows us His determination to go through the trial He was facing. He was in this wilderness (trial) for forty days. Sometimes the Lord has to **change** or remove us from our environment in order to work on our development (**Galatians 1:15-18**). Jesus not only had to **face** Satan, but the text says there were also wild beasts in the wilderness. It does not matter if there are lions, tigers and bears (Oh my!!), the Bible says there is no weapon formed against shall prosper (**Isaiah 54:17**). Our wilderness (trial) will be a **discomforting**, apprehensive and sometimes life threatening experience, but we have to be **determined** to go where God sends us (**Isaiah 6:8**). Note that God sent Jesus into the wilderness only after the Spirit had come upon Him (**Mark 1:10**). God will give us what we need if we are obedient to His Word and Will. He equips us with what we need to face the challenges that come our way.

Verse 13

The Defense

(and the angels ministered unto him)

Jesus was tempted by the devil and was with the wild beasts, but they did not devour Him. God sent Him a divine **defense** and God protected Jesus the entire forty days. The angels ministered to His needs (**Psalm 91:11**). The Lord will do the same for us (**Philippians 4:19**). The tense of the word “minister” suggests the angels ministered to Jesus **throughout** His experience in the wilderness. He did not have to suffer alone. God saw to it that He had whatever **provision** was necessary. Likewise, God will make provisions for us as we run this Christian race. When we find ourselves suffering, there is no need to become depressed and give up. God will deliver us from our enemies and trials in due (His) time (**2 Peter 2:9**) (**Romans 8:31**). The true test of our faith is how we handle **adversity**. Do we rely on the One in us or the people around us? The One on the inside of us is bigger and better (**1 John 4:4**). Now that we know God will always be there for us even in our times of suffering, will we suffer in silence or will we complain about our condition? Remember, our condition is not our conclusion.