



WHEN IT HITS THE FAN
judgment, suffering, and general crap

SUFFERING.

As you scroll through your social media platform of choice, you see smiling babies, relaxing vacations, and groups of laughing friends. It's easy to scroll and become disenchanted with our own lives, as we see the beauty that seems to seep out of everyone else's life effortlessly.

But we are a self-preserving people.

We boldly proclaim our wins while hiding or ignoring our losses. God forbid we ever appear weak, confused, or lost.

But God shows us a different way. Jesus, *a perfect human*, was upfront with His suffering. He wept when a friend passed away. He asked people to pray for Him on a scary, painful evening. He let people in.

There is so much strength and goodness to be found in opening up. We get to find comfort and then be a comfort to others. We get to experience honest community. We get to point people to a God who promises to one day make every wrong right.

Jesus gets pain. He gets loneliness. He gets suffering. And He showed us how to walk through it - with people, with honest conversation, with vulnerability, and with a *whole lotta* prayer.

IN THE BIBLE.

Revolution 21:1-5

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”

Isaiah 53:3-4

He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. 4 He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. 5 For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with his comfort through Christ.

QUESTIONS.

1. What are some examples of Jesus experiencing suffering?
2. How can we reflect Jesus in how we deal with our suffering?
3. How can we reflect Jesus in how we respond to other people's suffering? Have you ever had a chance to do that? When?
4. What does 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 say about our troubles?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?