



Trials become treasure

Week 1: Trials - "If we win the battle in the mind, we will win the battle in the mud"

Week 2: Hope - "The children of a superabundant Father must think superabundantly"

Week 3: Treasure

Introduction

John 9:1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, **but that the works of God might be displayed in him.** ⁴ We must work the **works of him who sent me** while it is day; **night is coming, when no one can work.** ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of **Siloam**" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

a) Start: Define where you are going to start

When disaster strikes the first thing we tend to is "**what should I do.**" Stop.

When disaster strikes the first thing you must tend to is "**what should I think.**"

Disciples get it wrong because they start with the **wrong assumptions** and the **wrong question**

Start with why....

Start with blame...

Start with fear...

Start with self pity...

Start with hopelessness...

Start with "where did I go wrong"...

Jesus starts in a different place.

When I'm facing a mess I have to learn to start my thinking in the right place...

What should be our starting point?

2Chr. 20:1 After this <three armies> came against Jehoshaphat for battle. **2** Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you **3** Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. **12** O our God ... we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."

Replace the starting point with.... "Jesus, this looks like a mess, **my eyes are on you...**"

"We don't know what to do, but our eyes are fixed on you..."

***Psa. 27:1 Start:** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.*

b) Finish: Don't focus so much on the reason, focus on the destination

"but that the works of God might be **displayed (manifested)** in him"

It's important to know where it came from. But it's more important to know where it's going.

The outcome is more important than the reason

John 2:11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and **manifested** his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

John 17:6 "I have **manifested** your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

Manifested – something that is hidden that becomes seen. John predominantly uses it in the context of the revelation of God

"I want to learn to see all of life through the eyes of God's goodness" Graham Cook

We may not understand God's reasoning, we may not like his process, but we will always love his outcome...it's always good.

***Psa. 27:13 Finish:** I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!*

c) Wait: In the hands of Jesus every trial turns into a treasure

Learning to present every mess to the hands of Jesus.

Someone who can get creation from a cross can turn any darkness into light, any garbage into gold, any victim into a victor.

Old hymn: “And now, let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us”

God's been into recycling for thousands of years. He scours the human junkyards of the world looking for treasure.

Wait doesn't mean inaction. Sometimes there are things that need to be done. Wait is an internal posture.

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Conclusion: When you've got a mess

Start: Define where you are going to start: Less “what do I do”. More “what am I going to think”

Finish: Don't focus so much on the reason, focus on the destination

Wait: In the hands of Jesus every trial turns into a treasure

I want to learn to see all of life through the eyes of God's goodness

Questions for Group or Individual Study

1. When you are facing a mess how does your thinking tend to start? Blame, Why, Fear or ...? What thinking would you like to develop?
2. Read Psalm 127. What stands out to you for how David handles the mess that he's facing?
3. Where have you seen Jesus turn a trial into a treasure?
4. How do you think we can “put things into the hands of Jesus” in times of trial?

