

May 3

“Egypt”

Genesis 37–50

Sermon:

If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:15

Someone needs to see us suffer well.

Joseph suffers the pain of family betrayal and rejection.

Joseph suffers from false accusation.

Joseph suffers from being forgotten.

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20

Someone needs to see you suffer well.

Don't be surprised by suffering.

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.

1 Peter 4:12

Learn how to lament your suffering.

A complaint is an accusation against God that maligns his character, but a lament is an appeal to God based on confidence in his character.

Get perspective.

Consider it pure joy, my brother and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4

We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance character; and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame....
Romans 5:3-4

If God gives you an abundant harvest of trials it is a sign of great holiness, which he desires you to attain. Do you want to become a great saint? Ask God to send you many sufferings. The flame of divine love never rises higher than when fed with the wood of the cross, which the infinite love of the Savior used to finish his sacrifice. All the pleasures of the world are nothing compared with the sweetness found in the gall and vinegar offered to Jesus Christ.

Long for heaven.

If we were more familiar with heaven and less familiar with earth our suffering, perhaps, would not take on such great pain.

I bless you with courage to enter into your suffering. Like John on Patmos, may your suffering lead you into astonishing encounters with the presence of Jesus. Like John the Baptist, may your trials deepen your belief in Jesus as Lord. Like Joseph, may your response to pain open your eyes to the goodness of God. May Holy Spirit empower you, strengthen you, and embolden you to suffer well as you follow Christ who suffered so well for you.