

Suffering. God. Part 4—Nothing Wasted

Text: Luke 22:24-34

Warming Up

Questions:

1. *Which dish are you most looking forward to at Thanksgiving?*
2. *What would you hope someone would do for you when you are facing a time of disappointment, grief, or pain?*

Digging In

Read **Luke 22:24-25**.

Another way to read “Kings of the Gentiles” is “politicians of nations”. “Benefactor” was an honorary title that rulers in First Century Palestine would expect their subjects to use of them.

Questions:

1. *What tactics are used by our politicians to govern?*
2. *What title would they like us to use for them?*
3. *How do our politicians tend to respond to our personal suffering? Our societal suffering?*

Read **Luke 22:26**.

Jesus clearly invites his disciples to set a different course from the “politicians of nations”. They are to live differently, act differently, speak differently. He specifically invites them to be the “youngest” and the “one who serves”.

Questions:

1. *What do you think Jesus meant by asking his disciples to be the “youngest”?*
2. *Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to associate ruling with serving?*
3. *What difference would it make if our neighbors experienced us as Christian servants rather than Christian rulers?*

Read **Luke 22:27**.

In this passage Jesus is teaching his disciples how to navigate through suffering by serving as an example himself. Jesus is the honored guest in this teaching, the “one who is at the table”. It is Jesus who just told his disciples at the Last Supper that his body would be broken and his blood poured out. It is Jesus who just a few verses later says that he will be betrayed by those closest to him. And Jesus says that *his* response to his own suffering—imminent death and betrayal—will be *to serve*.

Questions:

1. *How might serving allow us to navigate our suffering well?*
2. *How might being younger allow us to navigate our suffering well?*

Sending Out

Read **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**.

Questions:

1. *What does Paul say God does with our suffering in this passage?*
2. *How does suffering better enable us to minister to those who are suffering?*
3. *In what ways recently have you experienced suffering: disappointment, failure, shame, loss, grief?*
4. *How might God use these experiences to prepare you to serve others going through similar things?*

Closing

Take a moment in silence to come before God and ask the question, “*What word or phrase or idea or moment does God want me to remember from this morning and carry with me this week?*”

Close with prayer.