

THE GOSPEL OF
MATTHEW

Date: March 24, 2024

Key Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11, 26:36-46

Praise and Suffering

Enjoying confidence, peace, and joy through all the fullness of life.

1) We trust in the redeeming power of our sovereign, loving God.

John 15:10–11 ... *"If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full."*

sin."

2) We enjoy the fullness of life in the present when we trust God with our future.

John 10:17–18 ... *"For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."*

3) We have peace and confidence through our trials when we trust God's sovereign power to redeem.

From the Resources

“When God looks at a painful or wicked event through His narrow lens, He sees the tragedy of sin for what it is in itself, and He is angered and grieved ... But when God looks at a painful or wicked event through His wide-angle lens, He sees the tragedy of the sin in relation to everything leading up to it and everything flowing out from it. He sees it in relation to all the connections and and effects that form a pattern, or mosaic, stretching into eternity. This mosaic in all its parts-good and evil-brings Him delight.

- John Piper - *Desiring God* (pg. 39)

Scripture to Pray

"remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'"

Isaiah 46:9–10

Questions to Discuss

- 1) In what ways is it the best of times, in what ways is it the worst of times?
- 2) What are the times I have the most trouble trusting in God and being at peace?
- 3) Do fears or anxiety about the future often make me struggle to enjoy the present?
- 4) How can trusting in the redeeming power of our sovereign, loving God help me live with peace, confidence, and joy?