

Romans: A life of faith
Romans 5:1-5
August 14, 2022
羅馬書: 有信心生命
羅馬書 5:1-5
2022年8月14日

敬拜歌唱

你坐著為王 You Sit On The Throne

詞曲: 施弘美 Tiffany Wang 演唱: 生命河靈糧堂

主耶和華 滿有憐憫和恩典
我投靠在你翅膀蔭下
當我回轉 一宿雖然有哭泣
早晨必歡呼喜樂

你坐著為王 到永永遠遠
雖洪水翻騰 我堅定仰望你
你坐著為王 垂聽我呼求
使我靈甦醒 有復活的生命

我們讚美你 We Praise You

原版: Brandon Lake / Matt Redman 中文翻譯: Christ Harvest Church, YK Chua

Verse 1:

让赞美成为使敌人退缩的武器
让赞 美成为胜过那担忧的武器
Let it rise, let praise arise

Interlude:

Oh we praise You

Verse 2:

黑暗因高唱耶稣圣名都变光明
全心献上赞美宣告主祢的胜利
Let it rise, let praise arise

Verse 3:

让信心成为那胜过巨浪的声音
让信心成为那平息风暴的声音
Let it rise, let faith arise

Chorus:

祢将使城墙都倒塌
所有巨人倒下
恐惧已不在 当我赞美祢
全能的神 与我同行
永远高举祢名
万物高声呼求 我赞美祢

Bridge:

这是全新的生命
这是自由的气息
这是天堂的声音
We praise You, we praise You

Build My Life 建造我生命

詞曲: Housefires

配得 我們献上每一首歌曲
配得 我們所有讚美的聲音

配得 我們生命每一次呼吸
為祢而活

耶穌 唯有祢名在萬名之上
耶穌 唯有祢是這世界拯救
配得 我們生命每一次呼吸
為你而活

聖潔 無人能夠像祢 無人與祢相比

開我眼睛為祢驚嘆
向我更顯明祢自己 充滿我祢心意
帶領我愛人更像祢

我要建造我生命 在祢愛裡 堅固的根基
我要全心信靠祢 我信靠祢 絕不會動搖

除你以外 **Whom I have but you**

作詞:林良真, 詩篇73, 作曲:林良真 演唱:讚美之泉(**Stream Of Praise**)

除你以外 在天上我還能是誰
除你以外 在地上我別無眷戀
除你以外 有誰能擦乾我眼淚
除你以外 有誰能帶給我安慰

雖然我的肉體和我的心腸漸漸的衰退
但是神是我心裡的力量
是我的福份 直到永遠

Offering 奉獻

Announcements 公告

Message 訊息

- We are walking through the New Testament book of Romans - a letter, intended to inspire pure, and genuine, life changing FAITH. 我們正在閱讀新約羅馬書 - 一封旨在激發純正, 真誠, 改變生命信仰的書信。
- And if you've been with us the past few weeks you know that this letter that Paul wrote to the church at Rome challenges our sensibilities around faith and life. 如果你過去幾週和我們在一起, 你就會知道保羅寫給羅馬教會的這封信挑戰了我們對於信仰和生命的感知。
 - There are notions we have about faith a religion; 有些人認為信仰就是一種宗教。
 - There are presuppositions we have about how things are supposed to work, 對於事情應該如何運作, 我們有一些預設。
 - And this letter, consistently challenges those ideas. 這封信一直在挑戰這些想法。
- Including the subject we'll look at today. 包括我們今天要討論的主題。
- *Illustration: Training, Suffering.* 舉例: 訓練, 受苦。
 - *I mentioned a few weeks back that I signed up for an Ironman that I'm racing in November.* 幾週前, 我提到我報名參加十一月舉行的鐵人三項比賽。
 - *And while I've done a lot of endurance related things, I had really drifted out of shape.* 雖然我做了很多和耐力有關的訓練, 但我的體型依然很差。
 - *So, I needed something to motivate me, and nothing motivates human beings quite like fear or humiliation.* 所以, 我需要一些東西來激勵我, 沒有什麼比害怕或羞辱更激勵人類了。
 - *So I picked this really scary, potentially humiliating race to get me off the couch.* 所以, 我選擇了這項非常可怕, 可能是羞辱的比賽來讓我從沙發上下來。

- *But getting off the couch, especially in January, isn't easy.* 但是，從沙發上下來，尤其是在一月份，並不容易。
- *Neither is going out for a run in 100 degree heat.* 更別說在100華氏度的高溫下跑步。
- *But a race like this demands that you do the work, regardless of conditions.* 但是像這樣的比賽要求你去訓練，不管條件如何。
- *Which means there are days when it miserable.* 這意味著，有些時候這事很悲苦。
 - *And it hurts.* 而且很痛。
 - *And you wonder why ever agreed to this.* 而你會想為什麼你會報名參加這件事。
- *But there's something that happens to me in those moments.* 但就在那些時刻發生了一些事情。
 - *Something happens that few people will ever understand.* 沒有幾個人能理解的事情發生了。
 - *Amidst the misery, amidst the pain, and cold, or the heat, I frequently experienced a strange, determined euphoria amidst the suffering.* 在悲情中，在疼痛中，在寒冷或炎熱中，我經常在痛苦中體驗到一種奇怪的，堅定的陶醉感。
- *AND, (this is how demented I become), I start looking FORWARD to the suffering, because of what the odd joy I find in it, AND, because I KNOW what's on the other side of it.* 並且，(看我變得多麼瘋狂)我開始渴望痛苦，因為我從中找到了奇妙的喜樂，並且，因為我知道它的另一面是什麼。
- See, once you've suffered a bit, and made it to the other side, and you see the gains, you realize there's good in the hard. 看，一旦你受了點苦，你就看到了另一面，你看到了收穫，你意識到困難中的好處。
- So, in the world of Endurance sports SUFFERING is considered a special place. 如此，在耐力運動的世界裡，受苦被看作是一個特殊的處境。
 - And It is one of the few times that that word - Suffering - is considered a positive thing. 痛苦- 這個詞在這裡是為數不多的一種被認為是積極的事情。
- With one exception: The Bible. 除了一個例外：聖經
- And it's not just a once or twice thing. 這不僅僅是一次或兩次事情。
 - There's a THEME in the Bible, of Suffering being presented as a POSITIVE experience. 聖經中有一個主題，苦難是一種積極的體驗。
- And then, in a few places, like the one we are looking at today, it's not just positive, we're actually told to REJOICE in our sufferings. 然後，在一些地方，就像我們今天看到的這段，它不僅僅是積極的，事實上我們被告知要在我們的苦難中喜悅。
- So let's look together at this. Romans 5, beginning in verse 1. 那麼讓我們一起來看羅馬書第5章，從第1節開始。
 - It starts like this: 開始是這樣的：

Romans 5:1-2 羅馬書 5:1-2

1 Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

1 我們既因信稱義，就藉著我們的主耶穌基督得與神相和。

2 我們又藉著他，因信得進入現在所站的這恩典中，並且歡歡喜喜盼望神的榮耀。

- So this week, in my own personal reading, my journaling, I was camped out on these two verses. 所以這週，在我自己的個人閱讀和筆記中，我在這兩段經文上停駐下來。
 - I meditated on these. 我深思過這些。
 - Peace with God. That's good. 與神和好，這是好的。
 - And Access to Grace, in which we stand. That's good too. 進入恩典，我們站在其中，這也是好的。
- Grace and Peace. I need those. 恩典和平安，我需要這些。
- So these first couple of verses, they are pretty appealing. 所以前幾節經文非常吸引人。
- But then we keep going, and it says this: 但是，我們繼續，它是這樣說的：

Romans 5:3-5 羅馬書 5:3-5

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

3 不但如此，就是在患難中也是歡歡喜喜的；因為知道患難生忍耐，

4 忍耐生老練，老練生盼望；

5 盼望不至於羞恥，因為所賜給我們的聖靈將神的愛澆灌在我們心裡。

- We rejoice in our sufferings? Really? Since when? 我們在患難中也要歡歡喜喜？真的嗎？從何時起？
- Other than that raining day on my bike, this is not something that I have even welcomed - much less rejoiced in. 在那次下雨天騎自行車之後，我甚至不喜歡這件事 - 更別說高興了。
- Rejoice in suffering? 在患難中歡喜？
 - Do me a favor. Look at a man or a woman who has just discovered that their spouse has been diagnosed with something tragic, and tell them to “rejoice in their sufferings”. 幫幫忙，看看某某男人或女人剛剛發現他的配偶被診斷出絕症，告訴他們要“在患難中歡歡喜喜”。
- Can I make a suggestion? Learn how to block a punch before you do. 我能提出建議嗎？在你這樣做之前先學學如何擋住一拳。
- Go to a memorial service. 參加追悼會。
- Look at the living and tell them to rejoice. 看著那些活著的人，告訴他們要歡喜。

Illustration: ICU 舉例: ICU

- *Some of you know that about ten years ago I nearly lost my oldest daughters. 你們有些人知道，大概10年前，我差點失去我的大女兒。*
 - *8 days in the hospital, most of those in Pediatric ICU. They were the darkest days in a season of dark days. 在醫院住了8天，大部分時間在兒科的重症急救室。他們是黑暗時光中最*

黑暗的日子。

- *And here's the deal...I would have to go back...people get sick. A baby gets born. A child gets sick, and I have to go back down there.* 事情是這樣的...我不得不回去...有人生病了。一個嬰兒出生。一個孩子生病，我必須回到那裡。
- *The first time I went I was paralyzed. I could barely breath. The memories rushed back. It was ridiculous. I actually thought, "This isn't real. I'm tougher than this."* 我第一次去的時候癱掉了。我幾乎無法呼吸。回憶一下子湧了回來。這太荒謬了。我真的想，“這不是真的。我比現在此時堅強。”
- *I didn't think, "Thank you Jesus for my suffering." I didn't rejoice. I panicked.* 我沒有想，“感謝主讓我受苦。”我不高興，我驚慌失措。
 - *And I panicked the next time.* 下一次我還驚慌失措。
- *See, there is this miserable design flaw, and that's that the pediatric ICU waiting area actually serves as a hallway - so people have to pass through this waiting room to get to other places, babies being born, kids getting treated, the parking garage.* 看，有一個可悲難受的設計缺陷，就是兒科重症急救等候區實際上也是一個走廊 - 所以人們必須通過這個走廊才能到另外的地方，嬰兒出生，孩子接受治療，停車場。
- *But the people in this awkward hallway waiting room, behind them, behind the glass, there are children that belong to them, and they are dying. many of them. won't make it. and they sit on the couches while people walk through, talking on phones and fumbling for their keys, and carrying balloons - and they sit there, SUFFERING.* 但是，在這個尷尬的走廊候診室的人們，在他們身後，在玻璃後面，有他們的孩子，他們正在奄奄一息。許多人，不會好起來的。當看著人們走過時，在打電話，摸索鑰匙，拿著氣球等等 - 他們坐在那裡，受苦。
- *When I walked through there, I couldn't even look at them. I can't even go there.* 當我走過那裡時，我甚至不敢看他們，我甚至不能走進那裡。
- Rejoice in suffering? 在苦難中歡喜？
- *People say things to help. I'm not sure they help. They don't hurt. But I'm no sure they help.* 人們說些幫助的話。我不確信他們是否有幫助。他們不讓人受傷。但是我不確信他們是否有幫助。
- “This too shall pass” - really? thanks for the king james use of the word shall. “這也將過去” - 真的嗎？謝謝詹姆斯國王使用“將”這個詞。
- “I know how you feel” - you do? because you once knew someone who had a cousin that this happened to? “我知道你的感受” - 你真的嗎？因為你曾經認識某人的表弟有也發生這種事？
- Or this one: “Pain has a way of making you stronger” - Well, how much stronger do YOU want to be, because I'm about ready to deliver some pain to you. 或者這個：“痛苦會讓你變得強大” - 好吧，你想變得有多強大，因為我已經準備好給你帶來一些痛苦。
- Rejoice in suffering. 在苦難中喜樂。
- *Illustration: Paul* 舉例：保羅
- *Around the same time that those events took place with Morgan, I sat at coffee with a friend...* 大約在女兒摩根發生這些事件的同一時間，我和一位朋友坐在咖啡廳...

- “Something is going to change, it’s big, I know it, just don’t know what it is.” “有些事情改變了，很大，我知道，只是我不知道是什麼。”
- *Within a week he was in the hospital...mysterious illness...he went from bad to worse...saw every specialist, was in constant pain, incapacitated, stripped of everything...he was suffering. SUFFERING.* 一週之內他住進了醫院...神秘的疾病...他的病情每況愈下...見了每一位專家，一直在痛苦中，失去了能力，失去了一切...他正在受苦痛折磨。
- *I would sit and talk with him and he not only described the pain, but the frustration, the angst, the loneliness. He was miserable.* 我會坐下來和他交談。他不僅描述了痛苦，還描述了沮喪，焦慮和孤獨。他很悲痛。
- *And while there were good days, no one thought that things would turn out like they did.* 儘管有好的時候，但沒有人會想到事情會像現在這樣發展。
- *I remember, His wife...emails...each week...of the ups and downs were a roller coaster.* 我記得，他的妻子...發電子郵件...每週...反反覆覆就像過山車一樣。
- *He never got fully diagnosed.* 他從沒有被真正確診過。
- *He never really got better.* 他沒有真正好轉過。
- *He never really got worse.* 他也沒有變得更糟。
 - *It was UNRESOLVED.* 這一切都沒有被解決。
- *And then, when the world was shutting down in 2020, I’d made a quick run to get my daughter from school and I got a phone call in a grocery store parking lot.* 之後，2020年整個世界都停下來了的時候，有一天，我剛剛去學校接回女兒，在超市的停車場，我接到一個電話。
 - *Paul was gone.* 保羅走了。
 - *No warning.* 沒有先兆。
 - *No symptoms.* 沒有症狀。
 - *Just gone.* 就是走了。
- *We all have had things, we have things....not fixed, not reconciled, just are.* 我們都會有過一些情形，我們都有一些事，沒有被解決，沒有被修復，就是那樣。
- *Some couples don’t reconcile... 有一些夫妻沒有和好...*
 - *Some business partners don’t bring the money back.* 有一些生意夥伴沒有把錢還回來。
 - *Some friends don’t say... 一些朋友不能講...*
 - *Some illnesses don’t go away.* 一些病痛不能好。
- *Suffering, and being human go hand in hand.* 苦難，與人生結伴同行。
- *James 1:2 - Consider it all joy when you meet trials. Literally, when you walk into them.* 雅各書 1:2 - 你们落在百般试炼中，都要以为大喜乐。也就是說，當你走進苦難中。
- *Not IF you do. When you do.* 不是如果你這樣。而是當你這樣。
- *A lot of smart people have attempted to answer the question of WHY we suffer...* 很多聰明的人都曾試圖回答我們為什麼受苦這個問題...

- I'm interested in another question: 我其實對另一個問題更有興趣：
- **What now?** 現在怎麼辦？
- Let's begin with "It happened." It's messy and it's there, and it's unresolved. 讓我們從已經發生了的開始展開討論。這已存在，令人煩惱，並且它還沒有被解決。
- What now? 現在怎麼辦？
- That's where Paul is in Romans. Suffering is real. Let's not talk about the why, let's talk about what now. 這就是保羅在《羅馬書》裡講的內容。苦難是真實的。讓我們先不討論為什麼，讓我們談談現在怎麼辦。
- Paul says something in verse three that is so comforting. 保羅講的一些經文非常安慰人。
 - Actually, he DOESN'T say something, and that is what I find comforting. 實際上，他並沒有說什麼，而是我從中找到了安慰。

Romans 5:3-4 羅馬書 5:3-4

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

3 不但如此，就是在患難中，也是歡歡喜喜的。因為知道患難生忍耐。4 忍耐生老練，老練生盼望。

Notice what Paul doesn't say. He doesn't say that your sufferings won't feel like sufferings. 注意保羅沒有說什麼。他沒有說你的苦難感覺起來不像苦難。

- He doesn't say that when you're suffering, the suffering goes away. 他沒有說當你經歷苦難時，苦難會消失。
- He uses this amazing word to describe how we feel. It's SUFFERING. There's no hidden meaning. It feels like suffering, when you are suffering. And it doesn't matter why you are suffering. It aches. It hurts. It's hard. It's suffering. 他用這個神奇的詞來描述我們的感覺。這是苦難。沒有任何隱藏的意思。當你在受苦時，你的感覺就是受苦。不論你為什麼受苦。這很痛，很受傷，很艱難，這是受苦。
 - Some of us suffer because of something that has happened to us... 我們有些人受苦是因為一些事發生在我們身上...
 - Some of us suffer because of something that hasn't happened to us... 我們有些人受苦是因為一些事沒有發生在我們身上...
 - Some of us suffer because of something someone else did...or didn't do. 我們有些人受苦是因為另一些人做的或者沒有做的一些事。
 - Some of us suffer because of something that we did...or didn't do. 我們有些人受苦是因為自己做的或者沒有做的一些事。
 - The point is, we ALL suffer. 關鍵是，我們都在受苦。
- We ALL know what it's like to ache; to feel like something is wrong. 我們都懂那種痛的感覺；那種有些事不對的感覺。
- Paul doesn't say that we rejoice because this suffering doesn't feel like suffering. 保羅沒有說我們喜樂是因為這苦難感覺不像是苦難。

- He says we rejoice because there's something we KNOW. 他說我們喜樂是因為我們知道一些事。
- In the middle of this pain, in the middle of this ache, in the middle of this mess, there is something we can sink our minds into. 在這痛苦當中，在這疼痛當中，在這糟糕的情況中，有一些事可以使我們沉浸當中。
- There is this beautiful, poetic progression to what Paul says in Romans 5. 這是很美麗的，保羅在《羅馬書》第五章裡發出美麗的詩歌般的漸進昇華。
- He says what we know, what we KNOW, is that our sufferings PRODUCE something. 他說我們知道，我們知道，苦難能產生一些東西。
- There's a product on the other side. There's something different, waiting for us. 有一些東西在苦難的另一面產生了。有一些不一樣的東西，在等待著我們。

Romans 5:3-4 羅馬書 5:3-4

3 Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

3 不但如此，就是在患難中，也是歡歡喜喜的。因為知道患難生忍耐。4 忍耐生老練，老練生盼望。

- Remember, at the beginning, I said that Paul's words would challenge our sensibilities as they relate to faith. 請記得，在開始的時候，我說過保羅的話可能挑戰我們的敏感度，因為那是和信心有關的。
 - Here's where our sensibilities get challenged. 這就是我們的敏感度受挑戰的時候。
- Most of us...faith to eliminate suffering. faith to make life smoother. faith to take the bumps out of the ride. 對於我們中的大多數人...信仰是為了免除痛苦。信仰是為了讓生活更順利。信仰是為了除去路上的顛簸。
 - We might read scripture and say, "I don't believe that." 我們也許讀了聖經，然後會說，“我不是那樣信的。”
 - But in practicality we do. 但是實際上我們是那樣做的。
- We have ideas of how things are supposed to go... 我們有對事情當如何發展的想法...
- We make assumptions based on context. 我們根據情況做着假設。

Illustration: Fishing 舉例：釣魚

- *If I invited you to go fishing, you'd make some assumptions about what would be to follow...poles, boats, tackle boxes.* 如果我邀請你去釣魚的話，你就會想當如何做...魚竿，小船，工具箱。
 - *You'd have a picture in your head of what it would look like.* 你腦海裡有一幅應該是怎樣的畫面。
- *How many....Noodling? Grappling?* 有多少人知道....徒手搏魚？斗魚？
- *This is done by men in cut off jean shorts and tank tops. No poles, no nets, no common sense, and a pair of heavy duty gloves.* 這是由那些穿著短袖短褲的人做的。沒有魚竿，沒有網，不合常理，沒有一雙厚重的手套。

IMAGE 圖片

- (Explain it briefly.)

- *When I tell you we're going fishing you immediately create a set of assumptions.* 當我告訴你我們在釣魚，你馬上就會產生一個假設。

- *And when I hand you a pair of cut off's, a rubber glove, and plane ticket to Oklahoma, you're assumptions go out the window. (remove image)* 當我給你一套短衣短褲，一副橡膠手套，還有去奧克蘭河馬州的機票，你的假設就出了邊際了。

- Things are supposed to happen a particular way. 事情應該按一些方式發生。

- Life is supposed to go like THIS. 生活應該是按這樣走。

- And then, we suffer. 然後，我們就遭受苦難。

- All of a sudden the tomorrow we were planning on, isn't there any more. 突然之間，我們準備的明天就不在了。

- She leaves, He tells the truth, the doctor calls, and it's over. 她走了，他說了實話，醫生打了電話，一切結束了。

- And as much as we say we don't believe that faith is supposed to take these things away, our words in the middle of these moments, speak to the reality of our hearts. 在我們說我們不相信信心會讓這些改變的時候，在這樣的情形當中，我們的話說出了我們心裡的真實想法。

- On that day, we say, "I never imagined" 在那一天，我們說，“我從沒想過。”

- People say - "I can't believe this happening..." 人們說：“我簡直不敢相信..”

- Why do we say those things? 為什麼我們說這些事？

- Because faith was supposed to eliminate suffering. 因為信仰本應該消除苦難。

- And not only do we discover that it doesn't, now, what we see, is that when you have faith, suffering actually produces something worthwhile, something worth rejoicing over. 但是我們不僅發現這沒有發生，現在，我們看到，當你有信心的時候，苦難實際上產生了一些值得的東西，一些值得歡喜的東西。

- Paul tells us, we rejoice, because of our faith, in the middle of suffering, because, as hard as this is for you to understand, the combination of your faith, and your suffering, produces something. 保羅告訴我們，我們喜樂，因為信心，在苦難當中，因為，就像這使你難於理解一樣，你的信心加上你經歷的苦難，產生了一些東西。

- Suffering produces endurance. 患難生忍耐。

- Endurance produces character 忍耐生老練。

- Character produces hope 老練生盼望。

- How does suffering produce endurance? 患難怎樣生出忍耐呢？

- Endurance, this idea that we can go the distance. How does suffering do that? 忍耐，這個我們可以走過全過程的概念，患難是怎樣實現它的？

- If you've ever suffered through something, with someone, then you know. 如果你曾經和別人遭遇過一些事，你就懂了。

- Examples: Men in battle, kids away at camp, a tough physical challenge, cancer. 例子：男人上戰場，孩子去遠營，還有身體上的問題，癌症。

- When you suffer with someone you are able to endure. 當你與別人經歷苦難，你就可以忍

耐。

- What helps is finding out you're not alone - it helps you ENDURE. 當發現你不是單單一個人 - 這會幫助你忍耐。
- That's where faith makes such a difference. 這就是信心可以產生極大的不同。
- What's the symbol of our faith? A cross 信心的記號是什麼？是一個十字架。
- Cross - a symbol not only of God's sacrifice - but God being present in suffering. 十字架 - 不單是神犧牲的記號, - 也顯示了神在苦難之中。
- Our first questions amidst suffering are directed toward God. 我們關於苦難的第一個問題直接指向了神。
 - If you only knew....I have. 如果你真知道 ...我經歷·什麼·。
 - If you had...I did. 如果你曾經...我做的。
 - If you ever...Been there. Done that. 如果你曾經在那裡, 經歷了那些。
- The cross reminds us. 'I know how you feel'. 十字架提醒我們, “我懂得你的感受。”
- In the moment, this leads us to endurance. We can go the distance. 在這個時刻, 這導致我們忍耐。我們可以走完全程。
 - We believe in the God who suffered, and we can endure. 我們相信神曾經受苦, 我們也就可以忍耐。
- Suffering produces endurance. He's in it with us. 患難生忍耐。他在患難中與我們同在。
- And that endurance, Paul says, leads to character. 而那種忍耐, 保羅說, 產生老練。
- I don't know if you ever pick up on this, but we have a funny way of greeting people in this culture. 我不知道你會不會也注意到這一點, 在我們這樣的文化中問候他人是挺有意思的。
 - Not all cultures are like this. 不是所有的文化中都是這樣的。
 - But in the west, we do this thing: 但在西方, 我們這樣做:
 - “How are you? Good. Me too. Good. How's the family? Good. What are you doing these days? Staying busy. Etc. “你好嗎? 好。我也好。好。家裡都好嗎? 好。近來你都做什麼? 很忙。等等。”
- And then, we suffer. And we can't do it any more. We can't go through the motions. 然後, 我們經歷苦難。我們不能這樣說下去了。我們不能繼續著這些習慣。
- I want to be transparent with you right now. 我現在想和大家開誠佈公。
- This past couple of years has been rough on my profession, in general. 總的來說, 過去兩年我在職業生涯上很坎坷。
 - Pandemics, politics, and polarization has done some very real damage on the church in certain parts of the world. 疫情, 政治, 兩極分化已經對世界範圍內部分教會造成很大損害。

- There has been mass turnover in pastoral ministry - record breaking - and many of my colleagues and friends have thrown in the towel. 在牧師的牧養事奉上產生很大轉變 - 從所未見的 - 我很多的同仁和朋友認輸放棄了。
 - They've stepped down and stepped away. 他們不是退到二線，就是完全退出。
 - For me, personally, the societal complexities were on top of a transition here. 對我個人而言，社會關係的複雜性是在過渡過程中居首位。
 - Transitions are hard enough, but load the events of the past two years on top of the normal tensions of pastoral transition and it was a recipe for hardship. 過渡時期已經夠難的了，但把過去兩年要做的事全放在我正常的牧師工作過渡時期，就成為困境重重。
- And last summer, about this time, I hit a wall. 去年夏天，大約這個時候，我撞上一面牆。
 - And it wasn't good. 不是一件好事情。
- I took a couple of weeks off and had to take a hard look at some things. 我請了兩星期的假，認真思考了一些事情。
- I knew I needed to make some changes, and one of them was pulling back from all kinds of things, so I could simply focus on pastoring and leading THIS church. 我知道我需要做一些調整，其中之一就是放棄做一些我當時在做的事情，就只是著重於牧養帶領這個教會。
- Which means that until recently, I hadn't been around many of my colleagues and friends. 也就是說直到最近，我一直沒有和很多老同事老朋友見過面。
- But in May I went to some meetings. 在五月的時候，我參加了一些研討會。
 - And I ran into some old friends, including one who has spoken here over the years. 我見到了老朋友，包擴曾在我們教會佈道過的，
 - A.J. Swoboda. AJ·斯沃伯達
- And he said, "Hey man! How have you BEEN?" 他問我，“伙計，你近來怎麼樣？”
 - Cause That is how we greet each other...even though we don't want to know. 這就是我們問候對方的話語...即使我們並不真想知道。
 - And I said, "Actually, I haven't been great. I'm good now. But things haven't been good." 而我說，“其實，我前一段時間不怎麼好。我現在好了。可是事情並沒有好轉。”
 - And before he could say, "I wasn't actually asking" I shared really openly with him, my journey and what I'd changed. 在他可以說，“我並沒有真想問”，我開誠佈公地和他分享，我的心理歷程和我的改變。
- See, suffering has a way of making us honest. 看到了吧，苦難讓我們變得誠實。
- For the first time, what is REAL, is really clear. 第一次，什麼是真實的，才真正清楚。
 - It's raw, and honest, and vulnerable. 原本的，誠實的，脆弱的。
 - It hurts. But it's a gift. 它讓人痛。但它是禮物。
- When we've endured it makes us into the kind of people we hope to be. 當我們忍耐過後我們就會變成我們希望成為的人。

- The people you admire...the people you look up too...they have been to hell and back. guaranteed. 成為那些你敬佩的人...那些你仰望的人...他們經歷過地獄而能返回。
- And they are the kind of people, that when facing the new reality of life...the one without the editing and gloss...embrace it. 他們是那種, 當面臨人生中新的境況...不去修改或修飾...而全部接納的人。
 - They don't say, this too shall pass, they say, "This too will shape me." 他們不會說, 這事也會過去, 他們說, "這事會造就我。"
- Endurance leads to character. 忍耐產生老練特質。
- And, then, 然後,
- Character leads to Hope. 老練生盼望。
- When you have endured. 當你忍耐過,
 - When you have had your character shaped. 當你已經造就你的特質,
 - You begin to trust a reality that isn't today. 你開始信任那今天還不存在的現實。
- You begin to believe a reality that isn't this moment. 你開始信任那不是此刻的現實。
- This may feel like a death, but a resurrection is coming. 這時可能會覺得像死去, 但是復活即將來臨。
- That doesn't mean that the picture you had will eventually come true - it simply means that we believe that we will be ok on the other side of this moment. 並不是說你心裡的藍圖會即將成為現實 - 它僅僅是說我們相信在到達現狀的另一邊時我們會安好。
- Paul says something interesting about hope. 關於盼望保羅說出很有趣的一句話。
- He says, 他說,

Romans 5:5

and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

羅馬書第五章 5

5 盼望不致於羞恥。因為所賜給我們的聖靈, 將神的愛澆灌在我們心裡。

- We will not be put to shame, by hope. 由於盼望, 我們不會羞恥。
- People will wonder at your hope. 人們會思考你的盼望。
 - But you will not be put to shame. 而你不會羞恥。
- Because God's love has been poured into our hearts through his Holy Spirit. 因為神的愛通過祂的聖靈已經澆灌進我們的內心。
- I don't know why you've suffered, the way you've suffered. 我不知道你為什麼受苦, 你受苦難的事情,
 - I just know you have. 我只是知道你在受苦。
 - And I know you will. 也知道你還會。

- But our faith completely alters our suffering. 但我們的信心完全改變了我們的苦難。
- We had an unusually wet spring. 我們剛經歷了一個不同尋常的多雨的春季。
 - And I heard an unusually large number of people say, "I hate the rain" an unusually large number of days. 我聽到超乎多的人說, "我討厭雨。", 超乎多的時間。
 - One of my favorites is, "What's up with this rain?" 我喜歡的一句是, "這雨能做什麼嗎?"
 - The rain doesn't bother me so much. 雨不會讓我煩惱。
 - Why? 為什麼?
 - Because the rain is why people who visit here in the summer say things like, "I've never seen so much green." Or, "This is the most beautiful place I've seen." 因為雨水就是人們夏天過來說, "我從沒見過這麼綠的地方", 或者 "這是我見過最美的地方"的原因。
 - The beauty follows the rain. 美麗隨著雨水而至。
- This week, we were taking some time to pray and worship as a staff. 這週, 我們教會牧師及同仁在一起禱告敬拜。
 - And we sang a song that held the lyrics, "may we see as you see." 我們唱到一首歌, 其中一句是, "讓我們看見你所看見的。"
- And it reminded me of something that C.S. Lewis said about suffering. 這讓我想起C.S 路易斯說過的關於苦難的一段話。

The problem of reconciling human suffering with the existence of a God who loves, is only insoluble so long as we attach a trivial meaning to the word "love", and look on things as if man were the centre of them. Man is not the centre. God does not exist for the sake of man. Man does not exist for his own sake. "Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." We were made not primarily that we may love God (though we were made for that too) but that God may love us, that we may become objects in which the divine love may rest "well pleased" - C.S. Lewis

人受苦難不能和有愛的神相和一致的問題, 只有在我們賦予'愛'這個字微小狹隘的意義, 以人為中心看待事物, 這兩者就不可溶和。人不是中心。神不是為了人而存在的。而人也不是因為他自己而存在的。"你已經創造了萬物, 為了你的喜悅他們成就被造。" 我們被造根本不是因為我們會愛神 (雖然這也是我們被造原因之一) 而是神會愛我們, 我們是那神聖的愛能'歡喜地'安放的載體。- C.S 路易斯

- When you suffer, you will be shaped. 當我們受苦, 我們會被造就。
 - Bitter or better. 苦澀或進步。
 - Shut down or open up. 關閉或打開。
 - Cling all the more tightly to our plans, assumptions etc. 更緊緊地依靠我們的計劃, 前瞻等等。
- OR we will begin to entertain a NEW tomorrow, and in that new one, we might actually be ok. 或者我們開始憧憬一個新的明天, 而在那新的一天, 我們可能真的安好。

Benediction 祝禱