Fruit of the Spirit

Lesson 4: Wednesday April 9th, 2022

Scott Waterman

**Leader Discussion Guide**

**Fruit of the Spirit:** **Patience**

1. As a Christian, why is patience important?
2. How does the spiritual fruit of patience communicate to a sinful world our hope in Christ?
3. John Piper says, “The aim of the universe necessitates that there’d be suffering, so that the Son of God can suffer for sinners and thus display the greatness of the glory of the grace of God. To put it very starkly, the ultimate reason that suffering exists is so that Christ might suffer for sinners and thus display the magnificence of the grace of God. In conceiving of the universe that he would create in which to display the glory of his grace, he did not choose plan B. He chose plan A, and plan A was Good Friday.”
   1. Given this reality, how should this change how we view our suffering?
4. In the midst of suffering, why should we be patient? (Read 1 Peter 5:10, Rom 8:18)
5. Read 2 Peter 3:8-9
   1. How is God long-suffering toward the elect?
   2. Why is God enduring “vessels prepared for destruction”?
6. How is Christ patient toward us in our journey unto glory?
7. Read Luke 22:54-62 & John 21:15-17
   1. Discuss this with your group. Put yourself in Peter’s shoes.
   2. Do you see how Christ is similarly patient toward you in your Christian journey?
      1. Give some examples of Christ’s gracious patience toward you.
8. Scott said, “Have you ever been in situations where you failed to watch over yourself and allowed yourself to bring vent to your anger? I find it helpful to meditate on these situations after the fact in order to understand our hearts desires. Sinful anger reveals a heart that is fundamentally not resting in the sufficiency of Christ.”
   1. In moments of a lack of patience, what is the driving factor behind your sin?
   2. Encourage the group to give some examples.

\*\* Take time to focus on patience in your final prayer. \*\*