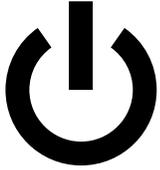


Title: Finding Purpose in Your Pain

Speaker: Davey Blackburn

Key Verses: Psalm 23; John 16:33; Philippians 1:12-26; Isaiah 43:1-3; Romans 8:28

Summary: God uses pain to prepare us for dangerous work in His kingdom.



Power Up: Take a moment to prepare

Davey admits “praying against” a calling God put on him and his wife. Have you ever felt a call from God that you wanted to ignore? What did He ask?



Replay: Take some time to watch

Note the flow of Davey’s talk: **1)** wrestling with God’s call; **2)** facing great loss; **3)** understanding the Valley of the Shadow of Death; **4)** taking my place at the table with enemies; **5)** embracing God’s goodness



Comment: Take some time to talk

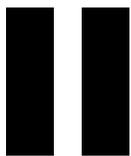
Davey says the murder of his wife Courtney taught him to “hurt with hope.” ***What does it look like to hurt with hope? How does Jesus help us?***

“What comes out of you when life squeezes you is because of what God has deposited in you,” Davey teaches. ***What truths has God deposited in you for when you face trials? How is He training you for trials now?***

What makes the Psalm writers seem like schizophrenics?

Davey warns against seeing “valley of death seasons as punishments.” ***What is a better way to understand these seasons? What does God teach us in these seasons about Him? About faith? About us?***

What does Davey teach about the meaning of Gethsemane? How might God use your pain as a platform? Why does pain come first?



Pause: Take a moment to pray

Thank God for His constant presence even in the darkest moments. Ask Him to keep you hopeful when you are hurting. Ask Him to make you dangerous and prepare you for a platform that points others to Him.



Take Action: Take a step forward

Beware of living in denial. Are you denying God’s calling? Are you denying your pain? If you are currently in denial in either of these areas, reach out to a parent, mentor, counselor, youth leader, or friend to talk about it. Accept their empathy and input as you seek to move forward.

Bonus Features | Additional Notes and Quotes from Davey Blackburn

About the Speaker: Davey is a husband, father, pastor, and speaker. The tragic story of his first wife's murder has provided countless opportunities to speak about God's redemption. Davey has dedicated the rest of his life to helping people through their valleys in life and teaching them that when following Jesus, "Nothing is Wasted."

"Planting a church was one of the hardest things we've ever done. God called us to plant a forest, but landed us in the parking lot... Faith is living without [holding to our own] scheme."

"When you go through life, especially when you're following Jesus, you tend to think things are going to go well for you. As long as follow Jesus, [you think] 'I'm going to be always healthy; I'm always going to be blessed; that trial, hardship and adversity won't come my way.'"

"When Jesus hung on the cross, he faced the greatest tragedy of all time. But God raised Him up. We don't have to be victims of our circumstances no matter how awful things are."

"You might not be in a trial right now, but you're in training for when the trial comes... God wants to do something in you, so he can do something through you... When God changes us on the inside, we're not as affected by life on the outside."

"If we put our hope on things in this life, we will be perpetually disappointed."

What if there is some transformation that wouldn't otherwise happen unless we were walking through the Valley of the Shadow of Death [VSD]? VSD is not punishment; it's preparation for greater potential in the future.

"Faith is a muscle. The only way it can be grown is if it's put under pressure. The only way you can truly know you trust God is if you're tested."

"God is the greatest jujitsu master...[Crushing Satan's head] is the greatest jujitsu move [ever].

What's he doing in the VSD?

He's making you dangerous.

"Getting hammered is a painful process, but God is turning you into a sword."

He's preparing you for a platform.

Jesus spent his last evening in Gethsemane... He was being pressed. Garden is called *Geth Semane* (the place of pressing) in Aramaic – Gath Semane (the place of ascension).

"You do not receive your calling, you don't step into it fully until you first undergo pressing... Anointing follows pain... God uses this to protect us from arrogance and pride... God does not use my talent, my gifting, He uses my brokenness."

"Pain is a megaphone to the world. It shows how good God is, how He resurrects us."