

110116 - Having Nothing, Having It All

Me - Cory Ness - bike  
Ever have something not really have it?

We - our kids  
Friendships / relationships  
Our marriage  
Our very lives...experiences... even sufferings  
It is possible to have something and not really have it - not benefit from it  
Have a rare treasure and not realize it? Antique shows

Review - John 9 - why? Asking wrong question - looking for someone to blame... instead look for how God can shine it up

2 Cor 6 - List of stuff he's been through  
name it - I've been through it - slandered, lost friends, people think I'm a fraud, a joke - seen as a failure - arrested, felon, (we think St Paul...) beaten -  
Mishna - speak against knowledge of the day - rel leaders of the day - handcuff you throw you off a 15 foot cliff - if no neck break, then take turns throwing boulders on you  
2 Cor 11 - far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. **24** Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. **25** Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; **26** on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; **27** in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, **[1]** in cold and exposure.  
And yet he says I've known.... [create 2 categories]  
having nothing, yet possessing everything.  
Paul seems to say he got some of these higher things through the suffering  
Some things we need to learn about ourselves and God we can only get/learn through suffering - Brokenness  
Why is that?

God is a Father - suffering in the world  
make my kids suffer - while I can control it - purposely cause them pain  
And as a loving father I want to introduce that to them before it happens from their own actions/consequences/uncontrolled  
because only other option is to cocoon them from pain and one day they will either be tsunami'd by it, or they will be a soft, ineffective, pine-riding blob  
If my sons are going to do something - make an impact - survive - be successful in any way - they must learn about themselves, me, and the world through suffering pain  
God is same way - wants to make us into something useful, meaningful - just like we want for our kids  
accomplish nothing - do nothing - just sit and avoid pain

Jeremiah 23:29 (ESV) Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?  
"Word" = words, actions, deeds; everything God causes and says "Aren't the things I say and do like a fire? Like a hammer? That breaks the rock in pieces".  
"Rock"=security - Rock of Gibraltar- In other words, God says Aren't my words and actions like a fire and hammer that break up your security? LIKE ITS ON PURPOSE OR SOMETHING!!!

Security blanket  
1 Peter 1:6b-7 (ESV): now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found...

Katana - The battle sword of feudal Japan. One of the greatest weapons ever made. The katana is renowned for its ability to go through armor, cut chain - even solid metal! American soldiers returning from combat in the Japanese theater of WWII, told stories of Japanese officers, armed with katana, charging machine guns and cutting the barrels in half!

The reason this is such a strong and sharp weapon is because of how a katana is forged. The raw steel is fired red hot and beaten/folded over on itself over ten thousand times. This process of submitting the blade to incredible heat and pressure repeatedly produces a blade of immense strength and durability - the life of the samurai warrior was dependent on his katana!

Some blades fail to become katana - they become training blades because they refuse to fold under the hammer of the swordsmith, instead cracking under the pressure and breaking. But those blades that fold, that submit to the heat and hammer, become the finest - they become katana, able to cut through anything.

The Japanese word for the process for this forging, what they believe embeds a warrior spirit into the blade, is Seishinryoku. The English translation...spiritual strength.

See God isn't interested in you merely existing comfortably - the same way you want your child to do more than sit on the couch whole life. He wants to make you useful, sharp, dangerous for Him. An influencer in your community. A person of Seishinryoku - spiritual strength. But that requires heat. That requires the hammer. That requires us to go through trouble, trials, and tribulations. - TO SUFFER You move through the grief. You endure the pain. You have to hold on: having to trust that God - the master sword maker - knows your limits of pain and endurance even better than you do. And he won't let you burn up - he won't hammer the life out of you.

How do you make something useful? Machine something that will do good work? Last?

Paul says I have lost it all and yet gained everything - suffered greatly, yet accomplished much - been hammered and through the fire, but my loving Father has done unimaginable things through me  
Can you see the Insurgent, revolutionary nature of this Kingdom? That to succeed you must fall behind? Suffer loss? Be hammered and put through the fire?  
If this kind of thing clicks for you - you are ready to usher in the New Kingdom  
Like a loving father he allows us to enter into suffering just like Jesus did to prepare us for our role in this world.  
Like a good commanding officer, he wants us to be Katana - sharp implements - if we allow ourselves to be formed by the heat and hammer  
Having nothing - and yet possessing everything  
Dying - yet refusing to die

Back to 2 Cor 6 - MSG - terrifically alive, though rumored to be dead; beaten within an inch of our lives, but refusing to die; immersed in tears, yet always filled with deep joy; living on handouts, yet enriching many; having nothing, having it all.

The Voice - terrifically alive, though rumored to be dead; beaten within an inch of our lives, but refusing to die; immersed in tears, yet always filled with deep joy; living on handouts, yet enriching many; having nothing, having it all.

Having Nothing - Having it all - Like Paul that saying you can acquire things suffering that can never be taken away  
Martyrs  
i am dependant on God and other for my very next meal - yet I am enriching the lives of people around me - inspiring others in their walk with God  
Don't know how well eat tonight, but we're ok

living on handouts, yet enriching many;

Suffering does something for ME... next week, it does something for US

- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2