



JESUS' 8 STEPS TO HAPPINESS

Step Eight: *'Happy are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'*

Matthew 5:10

WHY PAIN?

- **Broken people in a broken world**
'...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God' Rom 3:23 (NIV)
- **Blessed are the persecuted**
'Happy are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Matt 5:10 (NIV)
- **Benefit to you, God and others**
'...and we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.' Rom 8:28 (NIV)

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW PAIN?

- **God has given us free will:**
'So God created mankind in his own image...' Gen 1:27 (NIV)
- **God allows pain to get our attention:**
'Blows and wounds scrub away evil, and beatings pure the inmost being.' Prov 20:30 (NIV)

'...yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance.' 2 Cor 7:9 (NIV)
- **God allows pain to teach us to depend on Him:**

'Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.' 2 Cor 1:9 (NIV)

- **God allows pain to give us a ministry:**

'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.' 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

HOW CAN GOD USE OUR PAIN?

- **Be a witness**
- **Be humble**
- **Be honest**

A PRAYER FOR HELP:

Dear God,

Help me be ready to share with someone today the victories You have given me. Help me find the right words and the right time to share my heart with someone who is hurting and doesn't know where to go or how to stop the pain. I pray that I can share the ways You freed me from my hurts, hang-ups and habits. Let me do so with gentleness and respect. Thank You for letting me serve You today in this way.

AMEN.



Wollondilly Anglican Church