What Are You Learning From This Trial?
11/28/26

- Today – Opportunity to give a Bible study
- Title – "What Are You Learning From This Trial?"

- The material in this Bible study reminds me of a Bible study I gave on Saturday, 6/20/26 – titled "Why Are You Doing This to Me?"
- My opinion – The subject of suffering = the most challenging part of a believer's life
    - Why does a loving God allow suffering at all?
    - Why does a loving God allow me to suffer?
    - Why does a loving God allow my family or friend to suffer?

- Foundational scripture in 1 Peter 4
  Contrasting a difference – between 2 main ideas

1 Peter 4:15	suffer for personal decisions
16	suffer as a Christian – (meaning you may be innocent)

- At this time, let me show you 3 sections of scripture in book of Matthew
- I believe that understanding these 3 sections of scripture – can help you understand the reason for trials
- Let me remind you about a foundational concept = The world revolves around power and money
  Business
  Politics
  Religion

Matt. 19:23	"assuredly I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven"
24	"and again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God"
25	disciples were astonished – "who then can be saved?"
26	"with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"
Matt. 20:25	"you know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them"
26-28	"it shall not be so among you"

Matt. 23:2	the scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat – religious "leaders"
3	follow the good things that they say – but do not imitate their behavior
4	heavy burdens – which they do not do
5-12	desiring recognition
13-30	7 woes – (although there are actually 8 listed)

- Last Wednesday night
  "Thankful – Part 2"
  "Thankful for God's Answers"
  In that study – I mentioned 4 main points

1. Thankful – God Often Blesses You – Before You Ask
2. Thankful – God Often Answers "Yes" – After You Ask
3. Thankful – God Sometimes Answers "No" – After You Ask
4. Thankful – God Sometimes Answers "Wait, I Will Be With You" – After You Ask

- I want to spend the rest of this study – focusing on 2 Corinthians 12:9
- As we discuss this scripture, I want you to notice something significant
  Notice – The Lord is seeking to help Paul learn from this trial

2 Cor. 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"

- Flashback – to the 3 sections of scripture in Matthew – that we read
  "It is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven"
  Civil leaders – "lord it over" and "exercise great authority over"
  Religious leaders – apply heavy burdens and desire recognition
- We need trials –
  So we learn to depend upon God – instead of riches
  So we learn to avoid imitating most of the civil leaders
  So we learn to avoid imitating many of the religious leaders

2 Cor. 11:23-29	Paul suffered many times in his service to the Lord
2 Cor. 12:1	Paul had many visions and revelations in his service to the Lord
6	Paul actually had many opportunities to boast
7	to help Paul to remain humble, the Lord allowed Satan to give Paul "a thorn in the flesh" to buffet Paul and to keep Paul humble
8	Paul pleaded with the Lord 3 times – for relief
9	the Lord say "no" – "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"