

Facing Death: How Do We Deal with Suffering and Death?

Jeremy Marshall has incurable cancer, and he will be sharing from his own experience and from the Bible how we can cope with death and suffering. This is one of the toughest things to deal with, both in our own lives and for our friends and families. We will look at what the Bible says in both the Old and New Testaments. Then we will consider and discuss together practically how to help Christians who are struggling with these issues, working on some case studies. Finally, we will think about how we can speak to the non-Christian about death and suffering — both those who have general issues and those who face specific difficulties. There are also wonderful opportunities for the Christian here to share their faith.

Jeremy Marshall worked for many years in banking throughout the world. His last job was CEO of the UK's oldest private bank, C. Hoare & Co. He stepped down in 2016 after being diagnosed with incurable cancer. He is Chairman of Christianity Explored, Pastor Training International and Christian Books Worldwide, and a trustee of various other Christian charities. Married to Jeanette, he has 3 adult children and lives in Sevenoaks, Kent.

- I. Introduction: Jeremy's story

- II. What does the Bible say? Job:
 - A. God's purposes are mysterious and far beyond our understanding

 - B. Suffering and death can be redemptive

 - C. What not to do: Job's comforters

 - D. Job yearns for a friend and advocate to defeat death

- III. What does the Bible say? John 11 (Lazarus):
 - A. God's purposes are mysterious and far beyond our understanding

 - B. Suffering and death can point to Jesus

 - C. What to do: Jesus's reaction

 - D. The friend revealed

IV. What does the Bible say? 1 Peter:

A. Suffering is normal – don't be surprised

B. "Humble yourself therefore under God's mighty hand that in time He may lift you up"

V. Some practical case studies for discussion

VI. Discussion: How can death and suffering help in evangelism?

Suggested Readings:

Ash, Christopher. *Job (Preaching the Word)*. His earlier book on Job *Out of the Storm* is also good, but the newer one is even better.

Ashton, Mark. *On My Way to Heaven*.

Boston, Thomas. *The Crook in the Lot*.

Keller, Tim. *Walking with God in Pain and Suffering*.

Piper, John. *Don't Waste Your Cancer*.

Sproul, R.C. *Surprised by Suffering*.