

Tuscan Zoom 10/20/24. Joe LaTour "Are You Crying?"
(transcribed by Wendy Sellick, Juneau AK)

It's so good to be with you all this morning. Thank you for having me. I have something I haven't shared before on my heart this morning that's personal and I hope is personal to each one of you. We have each other, what a tremendous family that we have together, and yet there's times when you go through things that nobody can go through with you. And I hope that you can hear that. There are trials of your faith and tests that are designed for you that human help cannot assist in. Your brothers and sisters can stand with you, they can pray for you but it's you and the Lord. And as this becomes real in your life I think that it boils down to that. And I don't know how this word is going to come out so just be praying with me.

Turn if you would to 2 Corinthians 1:2. Paul is speaking here, and this is what I feel for you this morning, "Grace be to you, and peace from God our father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God, the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies and the God of all comfort. Who comforted us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. And whether we be afflicted, *it is* for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: and whether we be comforted, *it is* for your salvation. And our hope of you *is* stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so *shall ye also be* also of the consolation."

You know the subject of suffering is so broad and can be so misconstrued but what I'd like to talk about this morning just for a few minutes would be the sufferings that relate to what Jesus went through in the days of his flesh. And now we know that he's made it, he's at the right hand of the father, he's praying for you and I, he's making intercession for you and I but do you know, saints, that today you are Christ in the days of his flesh? And that as the same sufferings as he was made perfect by those sufferings, the same sufferings that are happening in our lives today. It is the processing of Christ. It is the growing up of Christ. And I know there's lots of revelation in everything but really what I want to do today is I want to speak to you in practical ways of where we're living and what we're

experiencing and the help that we're getting from God on a day to day basis as we press on toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ.

Vs 8, "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia," Now I can tell you that David and I didn't really have a lot of trouble in Asia. We were well taken care of. Those brethren over there know how to serve and they know how to take care of you. But the trouble I'm talking about is the trouble of the soul. What's going on, this dealing that is happening as we have a vision that meeting after meeting, anointing after anointing is laid before us and yet we see the margin in our life of where we're living in relation to the vision. And how much of it that we're actually possessing and the gap that's there. There's something happening. It's the day of our souls' trouble. It's the day of Jacob's trouble that you and I are living in right now that is ordained by God. We're actually being led by God into trouble. (I want you to think about that for a second) But it has a purpose. Again in vs 8, "For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life" And it's interesting that that word 'trouble' is the Greek word 'thlip'-sis'. And I'm sorry to have to bring a word like this. It's just that I can only minister from where I'm at, you know. I don't want to just go and study a word but can I tell you that this is something that personally is gripping my heart and my life right now. But this word 'thlip'-sis' means afflicted. I appreciated the prophecy, Rick. It mean anguish, burdened, persecution, pressure. And when I think about that the scripture over in Job 5:17 where he says "Behold, happy *is* the man whom the Lord correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee." So something is happening in our lives. It seems like that this thing called pressure, this thing called trouble, tribulation. How about anguish? I mean that's a pretty strong word. And we can go around, and we do, but we don't want to walk around like Bro Joe McCord used to say like we've been baptized in lemon juice. We don't want to do that. I'm not talking about some "Woe is me" kind of thing but really if the dealings of God, if the life of God is growing in you there's an anguish. There are nights that pass without you sleeping. You're troubled. Your soul is troubled. And

God has an answer for that. Look with me in John. But before I go there let me finish reading in 2 Corinthians. And forgive me I'm going to be all over the place here but I'm just trying to share of my heart this morning. 2 Corinthian 1:8 "...insomuch that we despaired even of life: But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: Who delivered us from so great a death," And you and I can go back through our lives and see the miracle working power of God having delivered us. How many times in your life has God moved his hand supernaturally, I want you to think about it. I know the times when I can look at different aspects, different things that were life controlling situations in my life and I've seen the hand of God move and deliver me. Ya know we talk about the miraculous and, folks, I know that there is miraculous on the physical level but there's something greater here than the physical level. What about the miracle of a new birth? What about the miracle of passing from death to life? Or the miraculous power of God that enables us to actually taste of and partake of the divine nature? We need to start looking for the miracle working power of God not just in the realm of the physical. That would be in the temporal. And yes you can get your physical body straightened out and I believe in that. But more importantly to me would be the miracle working power that would transition you and I completely into this new creation life to where the resurrection life that resided in your spirit is released into your soul and your body. That, friends, is miracle working power. And don't play down the miracle of your new birth. Because you passed from death to life. The translation out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom God's dear Son is nothing short of a miracle. Supernatural working of the living God that we're going to continue to need to make it all the way. "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;" completely. But the definition of this word trouble it seems to be all affliction, pressure, tribulation, persecution. Anguish.

Go with me over to John 16:19. "Now Jesus knew that they were desirous to ask him, and said unto them, Do ye inquire among yourselves of that I said, A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me? Verily, verily, I say unto you, That ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice: and ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she

remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world.“ And you see folks the woman that he’s talking about here is my soul and your soul and the travail that our souls are pregnant with the life of God. Something is happening, and we’ve known this for years but it’s really upon us.

I was talking with my daughter who is a CRNA, which is a nurse anesthetist, and she works all all over in putting people out and bringing them back and taking care of them while they’re out. And many times she’s on call and gets called into maternity to give epidurals and different things like that for women in labor. And she was telling me there are like 4 stages. There’s the stage of early labor. There’s the stage of bridging, which is basically the stage between early labor and active labor. And you women out there are looking at me like, “He doesn’t know what he’s talking about and you’d be absolutely right. I don’t but you know what? First in the natural and then in the spirit. Something is happening, we can transition out of the natural, and I don’t care if you’re male or female in the natural you are going through these stages in the spirit. And the greater the intensity and consistency and regularity of the pain the more the channel opens for the emerging of a new life. No pain, no suffering, no travail the life is trapped within you and it does not emerge into the visible without the pain intensifying with each stage. You go from bridging to active labor and then active labor into transition. And she was telling me in transition most of the time they lose their head. They don’t know what they’re doing. Does that describe you? Well, I have to be honest. Sometimes it describes me, I don’t know what I’m doing. I know this sounds funny but I’m either going to laugh or I’m going to cry because you get into this stage where “God I don’t know what’s happening”, you’re up all night reaching after God and you feel like “Oh my God! I’m in anguish! I don’t know where I’m at, I don’t know how to...” and the pain intensifies. And folks, I hope I’m speaking to somebody, I hope that you can relate to what I’m talking about here. And not live in a make believe Pollyanish type of a mindset that everything's going to be OK. It is going to be OK but I can tell you something, you and I are going to go through some things because our forerunner was made perfect by the things that he suffered. And he suffered in so many ways. He suffered being tempted. And it says when you and I go through these troubles, go through these tribulations we’re able to comfort those who are in any trouble. And right now because

the brethren were made partakers of flesh and blood He (Jesus) took part in the same. Why? So that he could comfort you in any trouble you are going through. And that He can comfort me. Weeping does endure for a night but it says here that she remembers no more the anguish for joy that a man was born into the world. And brothers and sisters, we have an election coming up and I know I have my 'druthers' about who I'd like to see elected. But you know as well as I do that it doesn't matter who gets elected they are not going to fix creation's problems. What creation is really groaning for is for you and I to go through our dark night of the soul and to bring forth this new man into the world. Joy comes in the morning even though weeping endures for the night. And no matter what you're going through, and don't kid yourself, I don't want you walking around looking like you're baptized in lemon juice. There's nothing wrong with you saying, "Hey, you know what? I'm going through some stuff. Internally. I really don't get it. I have this nameless sadness, nameless heaviness and pressure." And I tell you that it's come to you from the hand of God. That there's a bridge, and the closer you get to the time of delivery the more regular the pain are. The more regular the tests. And you look at situations and you think, What really is being tried here is your faith. What's really on trial is not whether you pass a test or whether you hit the wall or what. Peter hit the wall, he denied the Lord 3 times the Lord was not fooled about that. He knew Peter was going to do that. But was really on trial was Peter's faith. Do you continue to hold on when you feel that anguish, when you feel that pain, when you are in that tribulation. And I find something happening. I find a cry going up. I find myself crying more. Maybe you're doing the same thing. Maybe hopefully you're crying more.

Go with me to Rev 12. And we know this. This is a classic scripture for us as a people but really what this is talking about, this woman clothed with the sun, is a people. Is a picture of the gathering of souls that have been purchased. That are no longer in the unregenerate Adam but have been placed in Christ and they're in heavenly places. So any time it's talking about a woman here it's talking about your soul. Especially in the light of this scripture. Or in the light of John 16.

Rev 12, "And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:" Look at how she's decked out. But you know what she's

doing? “And she being with child cried,” You know what she did? She cried. I wonder, are you crying? I wonder as you go through past the revelatory beauty of the first part of the verse that you get onto the practicality of bringing this life forth. Are you crying? I think God is going to be bringing us into some places where we’re crying. For the reality of the truth that we’ve embraced all these years would be brought into the visible, would emerge.

Psalms 130. Or we could go to Psalms 3. There’s eight times in the Psalms where the psalmist speaks about crying. And again I’m not talking about some fleshly kind of thing. I’m talking about something that comes from way down deep. You know they tell me too that when a woman gets into transition she doesn’t care what she looks like. She beyond that. She’s past that. All the covers get thrown off, all she wants is to be free. All she wants to do is to bring forth that life. And she doesn’t care what she looks like or what people that are standing around her are thinking. All her attention is on one thing. She is focused.

Take a look at Psalms 3, “LORD, how are they increased that trouble me! Many *are* they that rise up against me. Many *there be* which say of my soul, *There is* no help for him in God. Selah.

But thou, O LORD, *art* a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

I cried”- I cried -“unto the LORD with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah.

I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.” So the question, are you crying? You know Christ in the days of his flesh, Jesus in the days of his flesh offered up prayers and supplications with what? Strong cryings and tears unto Him that was able to save him from death, and was heard. I can tell you this, that when you’re in this time of active labor or transition or whatever stage that your in, when you cry He will hear you. Your cries will be heard. Sometimes there are cries are that are groanings. They go beyond.

Psalms 130:1. “Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice: let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.” You are Christ in the days of his flesh and you are going to go through this time of processing. If you don’t find yourself there today, be sure of this.

You will find yourself there. You will. “If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But *there is* forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.” So you’ve got to know that today, friend, no matter during this time if you act out come to God and confess whatever you need to confess because there is forgiveness that has been paid for from the outset by a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world to get you through this time and all the way into where God has ordained for you and I to be. “I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul *waiteth* for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: *I say, more than* they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD *there is* mercy, and with him *is* plenteous redemption.” More than you need. An over abundance. “And he shall redeem Israel from all”- from all-“of his iniquities.” Not just some. That just as you’ve experienced some deliverance, who has delivered, he does deliver and shall yet deliver. He Will Redeem You From All Iniquity. Don’t let go of that.

Psalm 131. Something happens to the soul when it gets in trouble. You go through some trouble you go through some chastening. Actually it says ‘the effective chastening is the peaceable fruit of righteousness.’ I look at parents today, and again this is not about natural child raising But I’ll just throw this in here, you see kids and they get time out, they get sent to their room but when we were kids we got a spanking. Well chastening does something. It actually brings peace to a child. I’m not talking about beating children, I’m talking about instructive chastening. Now it’s like, ‘alright Jonny, you hit your brother in the head with that brick. You go to your room where all your PlayStation and everything is and you stay in there for half an hour. But you know folks, that’s not going to cut it. He’s probably going to hit him with a brick again tomorrow so he can go and play with his PlayStation. But there’s something about the chastening of the Lord, that dealing of God in our life that brings about a peaceable quietness and a righteousness. It says ‘we have fathers of our flesh that chastened us after their own pleasure but He for our good that we might be partakers of his holiness.’ Somehow partaking of holiness and chastening go together. And I love this, Psalm 131, “LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul *is* even as a weaned child.” There’s a work that is

happening in the soul. God is dealing with my soul and your soul and one of the tools that he uses is trouble.

You know in other places it talks about crying and I don't care if you find yourself in dealings of God today and even if they are as the result of your own actions, maybe your own disobedience got you in this fix. Sometimes it just comes upon you. But sometimes it could be that you and I have done something and God is dealing with us. And I like Jonah because Jonah is a guy, you know this story and we've used poor a Jonah, he gets picked on a lot, but really you and I are kind of much the same. Jonah was an anointed prophet and he was sent with a mission by God to go down and preach repentance to Nineva, whatever the issues were, there were different thoughts about that, but for one reason or another Jonah just didn't have an inclination to go to Nineva. And so he exercised his free will, which we all have one, and God said, 'OK, you have a free will go ahead. So he took a ship to Tarshish, you know the story, and he was thinking about enjoying the beaches there and maybe having a nice vacation. And he's thinking 'well I'm going to down to the lower deck and go to sleep'. And while he down there the Lord's going 'you have a free will but I own the weather, I own the fish in the sea, I own everything, Jonah'. And it says, 'the Lord caused a great storm to come upon that ship. Have you ever found yourself and your soul in the middle of a storm? We've seen some tremendous storms in this nation in the last few months. My goodness! Helene and this last one, Milton, and there are more out there. Folks, I know it's happening in the natural but I'm telling you we're going to go through storms in the spirit. You can look at Paul's life. The storms that he went through to where everything was lost. The ship was lost. But not a soul was lost. Because God's not interested in all this stuff. He's interested in souls. And there are storms that are brewing . There are storms brewing out in the Atlantic right now. How many spiritual storms are approaching your coasts? Well, they're coming. But I want to tell you He's the master of the storm. And it's interesting because in Jonah 2 when he confessed that the reason this storm is happening is my fault and if you throw me overboard everything is going to be OK, and he was right. As soon as he split those waters the storm ceased. And God had the big fish prepared for him. And here in chapter 2 Jonah says, "Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, and said, I cried"-I cried. It's my fault I'm in this fish's belly-"I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me;"

Even in your disobedience Jonah. If you're a Jonah today he will hear you when you cry. "He heard me out of the belly of hell" if you make your bed in hell God can still hear you there. Hell is place that God uses for the instruction of his sons. Pig pens. Hell. "I cried out of the belly of hell and you heard my voice." Vs 3, "For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about: all thy billows and thy waves passed over me." Have you ever experienced that in any measure? Yes, I have! I know the dealings of God and I'm sure I'm not at the end knowing those dealings. Vs 4 "Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple." Are you in trouble today? Do you find yourself in the belly of hell? Friends, if you'll just cry. If you'll cry and you look again 'toward thy holy temple'. 'The waters compassed me about even to the soul'.

You see this goes far beyond the physical and I know that God uses even some of the afflictions that we go through physically. But what he's really dealing with is our soul. Vs 5, "The waters compassed me about, *even* to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head" Sometimes it seems like some of these thoughts that we battle and the confusion that we get into in the mind when were going through this stuff is like weeds wrapped around your head. Vs 6 "I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars *was* about me for ever:" Have you ever felt that way? God I'm never going to escape this earthy nature. It's a prison. The bars of the earthy nature were around about me and it seemed like it was going to be that way for ever "yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O LORD my God. When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." You know how you forsake your own mercy? By believing that God is trying to hurt you and that he's against you or that he's left you and you stop ascribing faithfulness and righteousness to your maker. He only has your good in mind. He is going to bring you into a good place. You're passing through the processing of Christ in the days of his flesh. God has not left you for one second and he's not allowing one more grain of suffering or anguish upon the scale of the balances of your life than is necessary. Vs 9 "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* that I have vowed. Salvation *is* of the LORD." The Lord liked

that prayer. He liked Jonah crying because then it says the Lord spoke to the fish and it vomited up Jonah on dry land.

You know that was just one stage for Jonah. We can see that he was a very effectual preacher after that. People were repenting but still his attitude was not good. So 6 troubles, and in 7...how many times, how many times. Naman go dip 7 times in those dirty waters. You need to go down 7 times and when he came up the 7th time his flesh was like a newborn. The leprosy was gone. I don't know what your pain level is, I don't know where you're at in bringing forth this new life, this spiritual life you are pregnant with but I can tell you that as the intensity grows you are opening wide up for that life to emerge. Continue to hang on to the faithfulness of God.

Psalms 116. I hope this is not a downer word for you. I mean after the meeting somebody will say what did he talk about? Oh man! We're in trouble. And we are and yet God is with us. Psalm 116:1 "I love the LORD, because he hath heard my voice *and* my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon *him* as long as I live. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the LORD; O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. Gracious *is* the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God *is* merciful. The LORD preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and"-you know what-"he helped me." He helped me. Therefore as a result of that "Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. For thou hast delivered my soul from death," Folks that's what God is out to do. That's the working of the spirit of God on every one of us personally and individually. And God is going to take you through this and you can reach out and you can call friends but they can't go through it with you. They can stand with you but you gotta go through this with Him. "You've delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, *and* my feet from falling. I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted: I said in my haste, All men *are* liars." And ya know that's kind of where we're at sometimes. We say things when we're afflicted. They tell me that a woman sometimes, my wife never did this but, they start coming after their husband when they're in transition. "This is your fault! You get out of here!" They start telling him off.

Hebrews 2:14. I've already pretty much quoted this but, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same;" Jesus, the humbling and the knosos of Jesus emptying himself to never go back to what he was before, he has a new name now. He took part of flesh and blood and walked the path of the redeemed all the way into incorruptibility after having died vicariously for you and I and now as a man he sits in the the throne. Vs 17 says, "Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to come to the aid of them that are tempted." He is able to help you and I in our hour of temptation. Right now. In whatever test, whatever temptation you find yourself in he is able to assist you and come to your aid. And not only that but in Hebrews 7, 'But this man' he's talking about priests that could not continue and that perfection could not come by the the Levitical priesthood because they did not continue because they died. 'But this man because he continues forever has an unchangeable priesthood and because of that he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him seeing that he ever lives to make intercession for them.' And I don't know if you realize it today or not Jesus is always praying for you. He ever lives to make intercession for you. He's not praying that you not go through things. He didn't pray for Peter that he wouldn't go through that test, that he wouldn't be sifted. No. He prayed, 'Peter, I have prayed for you.' I'm praying in this dark night on the trial of your faith that your faith doesn't fail, Peter. That's what I'm praying for. That when you're going through this pressure, when you're going through this trouble, no matter how you act out, no matter how you accuse your husband 'it's your fault' and all this stuff, you say things that you don't mean, I'm praying that your faith doesn't fail. And not only that is says that the Holy Spirit, you and I don't know how to pray. It says over in Romans 8:26 it says 'we don't know how to pray as we aught so the spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings that can't even be uttered." You've got Jesus and the Holy Spirit interceding for you. Last I checked Jesus has about a 100% prayer answered rate. 'Thank you father because you always hear me.' You've got someone in your corner. No matter what you're going through, He's with you. He's praying for you. 'All that you have given me, father, I have lost none. No man is able to pluck them out of my hand.' He's keeping you. The fact that you're still standing

is a sign that God is keeping you. He hasn't promised that we're not gonna go through things. You're birthing the answer to creation. Yes, you're going to go through things. God is going to deal with your soul and with mine but don't be discouraged today. Be encouraged.

I'd like to close with this last scripture in Hebrews 13 and I'd like to read it in the Amplified. Vs 5, Let your character or moral disposition be free from the love of money, including greed, avarice, lust, craving for earthly possessions. Be satisfied with your present circumstances and with what you have. For He, that is God himself has said'-now listen to this. This is to you friends-I will not in any way fail you. Nor give you up. Nor leave you without support. I will not, I will not, I will not in any degree leave you helpless nor for sake you nor let you down, relax my hold on you, assuredly not. So we take comfort and are encouraged and confidently and boldly say 'The Lord is my helper.' No matter what I'm going through, no matter what kind of trouble, no matter what I've got to go through to bring forth this life inside of me the Lord is my helper. I will not be seized with alarm. I will not fear or dread or be terrified what can man do to me.' I will not, I will not, I will not leave you. I will not in any degree leave you helpless or forsake you. I will not let go of my hold upon you.' No matter what you're going through today, friends, it is the day of Jacob's trouble. But he shall be delivered out of it and you will have a song. A song for all men. A song for all men everywhere because of what God has brought forth out of this little barren woman who is pregnant with the life of God.
Amen