

"A Sword in the Soul"

Luke 2:25-35 (Bible p. 857-858)

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Jesus loves you too much to leave you pursuing the superficial illusion of a "designer life" free from suffering. There is a form of suffering that Jesus brings before He heals all suffering. It is known only to those who love Him, and who love others. Do you know this suffering?

Quotes from the Cutting Room Floor

"When Jesus tells us about his Father, we distrust him. When he shows us his Home, we turn away, but when he confides to us that he is 'acquainted with Grief', we listen, for that also is an Acquaintance of our own."

— Emily Dickinson

"Suffering invites us to place our hurts in larger hands. In Christ we see God suffering – for us. And calling us to share in God's suffering love for a hurting world. The small and even overpowering pains of our lives are intimately connected with the greater pains of Christ. Our daily sorrows are anchored in a greater sorrow and therefore a larger hope."

— Henri J.M. Nouwen

People come to terrible conclusions when they assume this world is exactly as God intended. (An assumption that has wrought havoc in the sciences.) The earth is broken. Which only makes the beauty that does flow so generously that much more astounding. And reassuring."

— John Eldredge (Beautiful Outlaw: Experiencing the Playful, Disruptive, Extravagant Personality of Jesus)

"The difference between shallow happiness and a deep, sustaining joy is sorrow. Happiness lives where sorrow is not. When sorrow arrives, happiness dies. It can't stand pain. Joy, on the other hand, rises from sorrow and therefore can withstand all grief. Joy, by the grace of God, is the transfiguration of suffering into endurance, and of endurance into character, and of character into hope--and the hope that has become our joy does not (as happiness must for those who depend up on it) disappoint us."

— Walter Wangerin Jr. (Reliving the Passion: Meditations on the Suffering, Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus as Recorded in Mark.)