

2026-01-14 Summary

This powerful message confronts us with a challenging question: are we taking more from Christ than we're giving back? Drawing from the story of Job and the Apostle Paul's writings in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 4, we're invited to examine our partnership with God in His work on earth. The sermon explores the tension between receiving God's mercy and actively serving as His tools in the world. We discover that Job, despite his legendary patience, actually struggled with impatience and even accused God of wrongdoing during his affliction. Yet Job lacked what we possess today—the full revelation of Scripture, the example of Jesus, and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul's stark description of apostolic suffering reminds us that following Christ doesn't guarantee comfort; rather, it calls us to endure with faith, not feelings. The central challenge is this: Can we move beyond being spiritual thermometers that merely reflect our circumstances and become thermostats that change the atmosphere around us? When we're hurting, do we chase after explanations and vindication like pursuing a snake after it bites us, or do we turn to God for healing? This message calls us to recognize that some wounds only God can heal, and that our faith—not our feelings—must guide us through affliction. It's a sobering yet liberating reminder that Christ is counting on us to bear His burdens for the lost world, and that true patience comes from knowing the joy set before us.