

***The Blessings of Troubles, Difficulties and Struggles in Life***

Ecclesiastes 7:1-6

**Sermon Discussion Questions**

**January 12, 2025**

1. Which of the two paintings mentioned in the introduction, *Las Meninas* by Diego Velazquez or *The Calling of Saint Matthew* by Juan de Pareja, would you choose to own and why?
2. In Ecclesiastes 7:1-6, Solomon describes the difficult aspects of life (death, mourning and frustration) as "better"? How do these struggles and difficulties build character?
3. In what ways does suffering make us more open to salvation?
4. Nahum 1:7 speaks about how troubles and difficulties are good because they help draw us nearer to God. In what ways has God used your struggles to draw you closer to him?
5. How does the intensity of our present suffering intensify the eternal weight of glory?
6. How does it strike you that God often chooses the tougher path for us to walk? How do you plan on leaning into the path that God has chosen for you?