

### **Side by Side: Chapter Three**

1. This chapter deals with the merging of the two themes that Welch covered in chapters one and two of our book. What are these two themes?
2. Evaluate the four steps Welch proposes are the proper ways for busy hearts to respond when life is hard, and consider if that is your normal pattern in dealing with suffering (page 40).
3. Welch condenses what God has to say to us during our times of suffering in three sentences (pages 33-34). Evaluate this summary.
4. How can our faith actually change our experience of suffering?
5. Welch writes, “Hope is one of our most valued responses to the difficulties of life” (page 40). Why is this true especially in light of Romans 5:1-5?
6. Have you or others you have known ultimately concluded in the midst of suffering, “You are wicked, O Lord, as wicked as a man.”?
7. Have you or others you have known ultimately concluded in the midst of suffering, “Everything is meaningless, and God does not care.”?
8. Have your or others you have known ultimately concluded in the midst of suffering, “I don’t understand all this, but I know that my Father loves, me, and I trust him.”?
9. Have you or others you have known ultimately concluded in the midst of suffering, “Nothing has changed.”? Welch gives this as a positive response, but can it also be a negative one?
10. How can David and Jesus utter the words of Psalm 22:1-2 and not be complaining?
11. As we read the rest of Psalm 22 together, note statements about God’s promises and faithfulness that help in the midst of suffering.