



POTUS: Part 2

Small Group Questions: Threshold

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Read

James 1:2–4; John 10:9 and 11:1–35; and Matthew 26:36–42

Reflect

A threshold is a place where we enter. It is a point of beginning. Threshold moments may include wonderful milestones in our lives, like graduating from high school or college, getting married, or having children. But some threshold moments are of a different kind. They are moments of intense pain. Why are these painful moments critical in the development of every leader?

In John 11, Jesus delays arriving in time to save his friend Lazarus in order to bring glory to God's son. But still, he is deeply moved when he later sees Lazarus's sisters, Mary and Martha grieving his death along with many others. The pain was necessary to the path, but not easy to endure.

Pastor Josh Surratt offers us three truths about pain that leaders learn to embrace:

1. My pain puts me in position to help others.
 - a. Are you going through something painful right now?
 - b. How willing are you to let God use that pain to help others?
 - c. When helping others, has it ever ended up helping you deal with your own pain?
 - d. Name/describe someone who turned something painful into a ministry. What can you learn from them?
 - e. Can you see some purpose in the pain you have experienced in your life? Explain.
2. Pain is God's classroom for my growth.
 - a. Some of us may let our pain bury and define us. Some of us may bury our pain and try to ignore it. Either way it festers. Where do you land on that spectrum?
 - b. How difficult is it to think of a time or place of pain?
 - c. How worried are you that it will happen again? How might that fear be limiting you?
 - d. What steps have you taken to deal with your pain? Have you given it to God?
 - e. What have you learned from your painful experiences?
 - i. Do you think you would've learned those same things without going through the pain first?
3. Often the difference between where I am and where God wants me to be is the pain I'm unwilling to endure.
 - a. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus accepted the most painful path of obedience imaginable. Our Savior could have said no to the pain and ran, disappearing into the wilderness. If he had, where would we be?
 - i. Is there an act of obedience that God has called you to that you're ignoring or putting off?
 - ii. What are the reasons you might be unwilling or stalling?
 - iii. Is there something you need to confess or repent, even if it gets worse before it gets better?
 - b. What limits are you putting on yourself? Are you lowering expectations for your life?
 - c. Imagine what will or won't happen if you choose not to cross that next threshold in obedience.

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?