



281.890.1900
TheMETonline.org

Jones Road Campus
13000 Jones Road | Houston, TX 77070

Fry Road Campus | Hopper Middle School
7811 Fry Road | Houston, TX 77433

Good morning. My name is Scott [Rodgers, guest speaker from Oklahoma City]. I'm glad to be with you guys here. I love being with you all here at The MET. Now, I think this is my third time here. (And) the first time we just (kind of) got acquainted with one another. And the second time—I don't know about you but—I feel like we became friends. And now the third time, you've just got to put up with me because I consider us family. I've got refrigerator rights. I'm going to kick my shoes off [and] put my bare feet up on your coffee table. We're just family here at The MET. I'm just excited to be here.

Sal, I want to thank you for inviting me as well. And I also want to thank every one of you at the *Fry Road Campus* for allowing us to be a part of your experience this morning. And did you know?—now my friend, your campus pastor Brian Rose—here's something that you may not have known about him, it's recorded: He is the greatest space camp counselor that there's ever been. So now you need to know where he's come from—his heritage.

I love being here. Today we begin a brand new series called *Resilient*.

Aron Ralston is out hiking in the canyons of Utah. He goes by himself. He doesn't let anybody know that he's going—mistake number one when you go hiking in the canyons. (And) he's hiking and a boulder dislodges—falls on his right forearm—pinning him against the canyon wall, and he cannot escape. As much as he tries, as hard as he pulls, he can't get his arm loose. (And) he sits there and he realizes: This isn't good. (And) for five days he sips on what water he has left trying to just get his arm loose from between that boulder and the canyon wall. (And) literally his arm begins to die and he thinks: I'm going to die as well. He records with his handcam his final message to his family telling them how much he loves them. But something rises up within him and reminds him that: Come on, don't give up. And however he did it—in a gory, painful (I can't even image) way—he takes the little tools that he has from his hiking pack and he begins to amputate his right forearm. Successfully he does it and he lives and he survives.

Suzy Kellett gives birth to quadruplets. The same day that she does, her husband walks out on her [and] leaving her to raise four brand-new quadruplets all on her own. She leans in, she presses through, and she does it. Not only does she raise four kids successfully, she's now a life coach consulting others on how not just to survive but to learn how to thrive in life.

Brett Connors is diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Now, pancreatic cancer is a vicious thing. They say if that's your diagnosis, on average you have five to eight months to live—sometimes less. Brett decides to fight. He decides to lean in. He decides to continue to build relationships with his family. He decides to continue going through chemo treatment, to go to the Rocky Mountains and snow ski, [and] to go fishing off the Baja Peninsula. He decides: My time has not come; there's something more. And after three-and-a-half years of battling the battle of his life, three days ago my cousin Brett passes from this world to the next having left behind the model of courage and resilience.

This brand new series called *Resilient* is going to impact your life. What we're going to do is: we're going to unpack some of the life-defining moments in the life of Joseph based on the book of *Genesis*. And here's what we'll discover: (is) not only were those life-defining moments for

Joseph—not only were they for him—but we will see how those very same moments define who we become.

If you have your Bible, you can open it up to *Genesis, chapter 37*. And here's (kind of) how it begins. Now Joseph—he's 17 years old—he has 10 older brothers and his brothers just don't like him. He's kind of arrogant. He's a little bit of a nark. He's daddy's favorite. And his 10 brothers—they just don't like the kid. He's the youngest one. And so here's Joseph and here's what it says in *Genesis, chapter 37*—it picks up the account of his life in *verse 5*—it says that:

⁵ Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose {up} and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." {And} ⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

Genesis 37:5-8 (NIV)

Here is the first life-defining moment that we see in Joseph's life, and it's the very same for us. If we are going to be resilient—if you're taking notes, write this down:

RESILIENT PEOPLE HAVE A REASON TO LIVE

Joseph had this sense that God had a purpose for his life. He had this sense that God had something for him and he's not sure what it is. But God gives him a dream and he can see that his life has meaning. He's here. He has a reason to live.

When I first began to just vigilantly pursue what God's purpose for my life might be:

- I had recently given my life to Christ (and)
- I just wanted to (just) get involved and introduce others to the same Jesus who I had begun to experience in my life.

(And so) from our church we had this (like an) outreach thing to kids in the inner city, at-risk young people. And so I just wanted to check it out—what was going on. Now I was single at the time, didn't—(I mean) kids just creeped me out—stay away—(I mean) freaked me out. But I said: Okay, I'm just going to go. I'll check it out, see what they're doing, and—from a distance—look on.

So I go down to this thing in the 'hood. It's a store-front—a little store-front thing—in a very rough area of town. And I walk in and there are about 75 kids that are already there and a bunch of adult volunteers. And I'm just standing back. (You know) I let them know I was coming and I'm observing. And while things begin, there's this little 8-year-old boy who begins to be really disruptive. And I'm watching this whole deal and one of the adult volunteers (kind of) waves me down and says: Hey, Scott, can you take this little boy? His name's Demario, he's 8, and he's just having a problem hanging with the program tonight. Can you take him in the back of the room and just hang out with him and keep an eye on him? And I'm thinking: Me? I'm—okay.

So I take Demario to the back of the room and I sit him down in a chair. And I pull a chair up next to him. And you could see in his eyes—he just had this anger in his eyes—(you know) just that tense look. His whole body was tense, just (kind of) moving like this, and angry. And I sit him down in his chair and I sit down in mine and I lean into him. I didn't know what to do or say other than: Hey, Demario, my name is Scott. Are you okay? Is there anything I can do for you?

And he stares at me. He doesn't say a word. And I'm thinking: Umm, okay. He looks at me. I look at him. And out of nowhere—Bam!—he pops me right in the jaw! I mean, [he] jacks me in the jaw. I'm holding it going: Oh, my God!

And two thoughts pop in my mind right there. The first one is: Okay, I'm going to send this kid to Heaven right now. (All right?) Someone's going to show him what he needs to do. And then simultaneously this other—it was a thought, it was a sense—just came in me and it was compassion. [It] just caught me off guard from nowhere. This sense of compassion began to just swell up in me. And it was compassion for this boy named Demario.

And here's the strange thing about it, you guys. As I look back on it I knew it was God (now that I look back), because not only was it a sense of compassion for Demario but it was a sense of compassion for who he represented—kids who:

- They don't have a father-figure in their home
- They're really the victims of their environment (and)
- They're living without a whole lot of hope

And I was just overwhelmed with this. Okay, look at this boy—and all the boys that represent him—and in that moment I experienced what became the catalytic moment that consumed the next 13 years of my life: investing in Demario—investing in kids in that inner-city in that area.

Resilient people have a reason to live.

Ephesians, chapter 2, tells us this—you can look at it on [the screen] notes or in your Bible—now this speaks to every single one of us in this room:

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do
{what?} good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

What has God prepared for you to do?

Who is your Demario?

What's your Demario?

What gets you up in the morning?

What energizes you?

What are you daydreaming about?

What God-honoring cause possesses you and you want to dedicate your life to it?

Here's the deal, guys. We need to discover God's purpose for our life and I can't do it for you. The person sitting next to you cannot discover God's purpose for your life. Each and every one

of us have to go through the hard work of pursuing Him to figure out: God, what is my reason to live? Because, when it comes to being resilient, it makes no sense even talking about the subject of being resilient if there's not a reason to be so.

Resilient people have a reason to live.

So here's Joseph, he's tapped into this reason to live. And his father, Jacob, asks him one day—while all of his 10 brothers are out in some field somewhere taking care of the livestock—he says: Hey, Joseph, come here. I want you to go out and I want you to go look for your brothers. Make sure everything is cool, make sure everything is okay, and come back to me and let me know how it goes.

So Joseph goes out to find them and they see Joseph coming off in the distance. So we pick Joseph back up in *verse 19, Genesis 37*, and they say, as they look at Joseph off in the distance:

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer," they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

Genesis 37:19-20 (NIV)

So here's Joseph, he's got this reason to live, and immediately he begins to face opposition. Doesn't that seem like the way that it goes sometimes? (I mean) Is it just me?—or—

- Whenever we get this sense of purpose in our life
- A vision for something more (or)
- To be more than who we already are—whatever that is
- Whenever we see something

It's almost like we're going through life just going downstream with everybody else. It's cool. It's casual. But we get this sense of purpose and reason and it's almost like we shift. (And) we turn in the opposite direction and we begin to just go upstream in life and it's pushing against us. There's resistance every step of the way.

But here's what Joseph embraced in this life-defining moment of his—and it's the same for us—it's that:

RESILIENT PEOPLE EMBRACE RESISTANCE

They embrace it. He's thrown in a pit—facing opposition—resistance against him and God's purpose for his life.

So, Demario punches me in the jaw—God gets my attention—and I'm now invested in his life and a whole bunch of kids for a couple, two/three years at this point. (And) one of the things that we would do is that we would visit these kids regularly at their house, in their neighborhood, and stuff like that. (And) one of the days, I'm walking around visiting kids in the ghetto. I've got my clipboard with names and addresses on it. I'm walking around the neighborhood saying hi to people, visiting some new kids that we'd just met, and I walk up to this house.

All the houses there—this is the inner-city of Grand Rapids, Michigan, where I’m originally from—they’re big houses, big wrap-around porches, and a couple [flights] of stairs to get up to the main porch.

And so, here’s the address, here’s the name, here’s the house. So I walk up the steps and across the sidewalk and up the rest of the steps, and I stand on the top of the landing of the porch and I freeze, because I see out of the corner of my eye—I saw something move. (I mean) it’s just weird. And I look down and there’s this big chain, and it wraps around. (And) I walk around the wrap-around porch to the front by the screen door, and there he is—this huge Rottweiler—right in front of the door. I mean, this wasn’t your average poodle. This thing—

- I’d swear he had a 32-inch neck
- (I mean) size 12 paws
- Fangs 4 inches long
- Spit’s dripping down his muzzle

You know how that goes. And he lifts one lip or whatever dogs have. (Do dogs have lips? I don’t know.) But anyway, he lifts it up, and he’s like [pantomimes the guttural warning sound of a dangerous dog]. He’s looking at me and I’m like: Whoa boy.

And right at that moment a verse of Scripture pops into my head: God hasn’t given me a spirit of fear—come on now—God hasn’t given me a spirit of fear. And then another crazy—I don’t know, it just happens—and I thought: Okay, in *Genesis* God said (you know what?) He’s given us dominion over the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, and over everything that creeps on the earth. That’s a creep. I’ve got dominion over this thing.

So here I am:

- Man of faith and courage
- I’ve got my clipboard
- Staring nose-to-nose with *Cujo*, the homicidal Rottweiler [title/name of rabid dog in horror film based on novel by Stephen King]

And I take the end of my clipboard and I begin to stretch—full of confidence—over *Cujo* to ring the doorbell [at] full extension. Right before I’m to ring the doorbell [pantomimes the dog roaring with sound and instant action] *Cujo* just lurches at me.

And I don’t remember how exactly this happened or what happened. All I know is: the very next moment I’m standing in the middle of the street. My heart’s pounding 600 beats a second. I don’t remember coming down the steps, across the sidewalk, down the second [flight] of steps. I’m just in the middle of the street, scared to death, sweating like crazy, heart beating, and I hear the voice of this lady down the street—never saw her face but I heard her voice—she yells out: Now, boy, you don’t be going on up on that porch now, don’t you hear? And I’m thinking: Yeah, you’ve got that right, lady; that dog’s crazy. And I’m just freaking out.

And I look back on that moment and I think: Now that’s resistance. And check this out. *James, chapter 1*, tells us this, in *verse 2*:

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers, {whenever you face *Cujo*—I mean} whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know

that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. ⁴ Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

Between you and [me] and God's purpose for our life is resistance. There always is, there always will be, and we need to embrace it. The resistance you might be facing today, it may be a big/huge Rottweiler with foam/spit dripping down its muzzle, 4 inch fangs, lurching at you, scaring you to death. But here's the thing: embrace it and lean in. Because: to be resilient we have to embrace this resistance.

- Maybe you're at a place where your marriage is falling apart, but you want to do anything you can to save it. Embrace the resistance that's coming your way because it's worth it.
- If your relationship with your kids (you think) has gone the wrong direction—too far—lean in, embrace the resistance, fight for it; because that is a relationship worth fighting for.
- Maybe you're at your job and you really want to keep moving forward in your career, but man there's this resistance every step of the way. It's worth it. Embrace it. Go through it.

Between you and God's purpose for your life will always be resistance.

Now, I don't know where we get this but at some place we went wrong. Somehow we have equated the presence of resistance to the absence of God. [Expecting]: Oh, I know God's calling on my life and it's going to be a bed of roses and it's just—I'm going to sail into the sunset and I'm going to be a hero for Jesus.

Well, if you're experiencing that, you're smoking something because I've never seen it happen. I mean, what's—we equate the presence of resistance to the absence of God—do you know the one thing wrong with that? It's the Bible. Because: whenever you look throughout Scripture and someone discovers God's call on their life, they always face resistance every step of the way—lean in.

Resilient people have a reason to live.
Resilient people embrace resistance.

So here's Joseph, he's embracing this resistance, he's leaning in. His brothers throw him into a pit to kill him. But they decide: No, let's not kill the boy; let's just sell him to some slave traders that come by. So they sell him to the slave traders who in turn sell him to this guy named Potiphar who works for the Egyptian pharaoh. [*Genesis 26:26-36* (summarized)]

So Joseph is serving Potiphar faithfully. Scripture says that the favor of God was on Joseph. So he served faithfully and Potiphar literally promotes him, as a slave, to rule over all of his estate. [*Genesis 39:2-6* (summarized)]

While he is doing that, Potiphar's wife has a crush on him. Time and time again she tries to entice him into sleeping with [her], having an affair with [her] but he continues to say no. He wants to honor God. He wants to honor this guy named Potiphar. And so, she gets mad. She figures: Okay, I'm going to blackmail this guy. I'm going to accuse him of rape. So she accuses him of rape, tells her husband Potiphar. He is ticked off, he is angry, he believes her, and he throws Joseph in prison. [*Genesis 39:7-20 (summarized)*] Let's pick it up [in] *Genesis, chapter 39, verse 20*:

²⁰ ...But while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹ the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. ²² So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there.

Genesis 39:21b-22 (NIV)

Life-defining moment number three for Joseph—you and I need to embrace this as well—is that:

RESILIENT PEOPLE REFUSE TO BECOME THE VICTIM

If anybody had a reason to become the victim, wouldn't it be Joseph?

- He's got a reason to live
- He's got this purpose put in him from God
- His brothers throw him in a pit
- Sell him into slavery
- He's sold to Potiphar
- He serves faithfully
- He's lied about
- He's thrown in prison
- He serves there
- He's then promoted again

At some point wouldn't you think Joseph would say: Okay forget it! I throw in the towel. I'm done—white flag—I surrender. But for some reason he doesn't.

So God uses, somehow, this Demario kid to get my attention:

- Jacks me in the jaw
- I survive Cujo to live another day

And about six years into this thing—investing in these kids—I am now promoted to be the bus driver. Oh man I'm telling you. I mean, I'm talking the big yellow school bus with the black stripes, you know?—the big steering wheel and the big mirror on top. I'm telling you what, back in the day I could drive a school bus through the eye of a needle. I was the best there was, baby. I could go down the Sam Houston Parkway—rush hour—I'd go off the right side of the road [pantomimes swerving around traffic] and I'll get you where you need to go.

So I'm driving this bus and one afternoon we're taking the kids home—bus full of kids. I've got the big wheel in my hands [pantomimes holding a large steering wheel]—it's huge, you know.

(This is Texas. I guess you guys know about big wheels, but anyway—) Got the big wheel, the big mirror across [pantomimes it overhead in front of him] then you can see all of the seats. So I'm driving along and I hear this commotion begin to stir in the back of the bus. I look back in the mirror and it looks like a riot just broke out on the bus—kids everywhere, a big pile, adult volunteers trying to pull them off.

So I do what every kid dreams of doing at some point in their life if you've rode a bus. Anybody ridden a bus—a school bus when you were a kid? All right, here's the deal. Remember the times when something would happen and the bus driver—there was a fight or something—and the bus driver would pull the bus over and they would pull that air brake? [Pantomimes the sound of the air brake engaging] Maybe I'm the only one, but when they would pull that, I would be: Man! That is cool. I mean, you know when the air brake went off that something was going down.

So here's my moment. I'm thinking: Flashback—yes!—this is my time. I pull the bus over, pull the air brake [pantomimes the sound of the air brake engaging], unbuckle my seat belt. I walk back in the bus—people flying, fists flying, pulling people off. I get there and I start pulling kids off myself, trying to help out. I look down toward the bottom of the pile—you can start to see it—at the very bottom is my wife Shelly. [A congregation member gasps!] That's what I said: [makes gasping sound]. She's down there at the bottom and there's this boy on top of her and he's going at it. I'm thinking: Okay, this is personal now.

- So I grabbed this kid by the back of the shirt, with the love of Jesus in my heart, with every ounce (every ounce)
- Lift him up with gentleness
- Set him in the seat with care
- My wife gets up
- The fight subsides

I get back in my seat, disengage the air brake, and drop the kids off.

So we pull into the housing project where most of them lived, dropped the boy off who was on top of my wife going at it, and I just reminded him that (you know) if he ever comes back (um, you know, anyway). So [I] dropped them off—dropped the rest of the kids off in the housing project—and then go back through, back by his house, and there's about 15 people gathered around. I see his Mom—I knew his Mom—just yelling. I don't know what she's saying. She's pointing at the bus and I'm thinking: Oh, I just want to drive by. I just want to go home. I'm tired. But no—all right.

I pull the bus over. I get out. I walk up to them and she is yelling. She's cussing me up and down. (And) you could smell the alcohol off her breath from 10 feet away. Her eyes are bloodshot. There's a bunch of men there too just looking for something to do. (And) they believe the story about—this young man said that I was really rough with him in very vivid ways, which really, honestly wasn't the case. His Mom believes it and she's just tearing at me. I walk up to them thinking: Come on, God, are You serious? Do You really—do You really want me to take out nine men at one time? Do I need to do that today? No, that's not what I'm thinking. I'm thinking: Oh, God, You'd better—

Did you ever have a time when you're praying silently like: Oh, God, help; I don't know what to pray but help, show up, or I'm done?

I'm doing one of those things. I walk up and somehow God does something because they all settle down and I'm able to get out of that deal without getting beat up. I get back in the bus, take the kids home and—Shelly and I—we go home.

I walk right to the couch in our living room. I sit down and I just couldn't hold it back. I just start bawling. I'm just angry, confused, and I'm just crying. I literally said these exact words—I said: God, I hate these people and I'm never going back. It was as if a quarter was dropped in a slot machine or something. It just felt like [pantomimes something dropping down into him]—compassion. I don't know if God said it audibly, I don't know. But I heard Him loud and clear and He spoke to me and said: Scott, I love these people and you're going back.

I wish that I could sit here and look really super-spiritual, be the tough guy, [and] tell you that I made the right choice—I took the high road. But if I did I'd be lying through my teeth. Because the only thing that helped me to refuse to become the victim in that moment was God and His grace; 100 percent God and Him alone.

If you're at a place right now where—

- You've thrown in the towel
- You've waved the white flag (and)
- You're giving up

—if we pursue God, I'll tell you what, guys: you don't have to do it on all your [own] strength. He will give you the grace. He will give you the ability to stand back up—to refuse to become the victim.

So maybe you have thrown in the towel, maybe you have chosen to just become the victim—this is my reality. You know what? I know it's not fair. I know it's not fair when life deals its blows.

- I know it's not fair when your spouse walks out on you.
- I know it's not fair when your spouse has an affair and rips the family apart and you're left to raise the kids on your own.
- I know it's not fair when you work your tail off at your job for years; and something happens, they shut the doors, and you're unemployed.
- I know it is not fair when you try to do things in a God-honoring way and bad things still seem to happen—resistance still seems to come.

Here is the tough stuff: in order to be resilient, it's not that we live our life based on what other people do us or what goes on around us; we need to live our life based on what is within us. (And) when we do that, we can stand back up and refuse to become the victim.

Resilient people have a reason to live.

Resilient people embrace the resistance.

Resilient people refuse to become the victim.

Accomplishing God's purpose for our life requires resilience—there's no way around it. To experience God's purposes in our lives, it requires resilience. Let's bow our heads and pray.

Father, I thank you so much that You've called each one of us to good works. You have a reason for every one of us to live.

With our heads bowed and our eyes closed, I want to ask you a couple questions as you just focus on what God may be saying to you. There is no need to look at me—there's nothing up here to look at—just focus on God right now. Maybe you're sitting here and you're hungry—you're more hungry than you've ever been to discover God's purpose for your life; and your prayer this morning is:

God, give me the strength to pursue what Your purpose is for me. What is my reason to live? I am now willing to do the hard work to figure that out.

Maybe you are sitting here and you're pretty sure what God's reasons—His purposes—are for you, or maybe you're certain; but you're facing resistance like crazy and you just need the strength to keep pushing and leaning into it. Or, maybe you've thrown in the towel; made the choice to become the victim. Well God is a God of second chances to get back up and keep moving again and maybe your prayer is:

God, I'm going to get up, I'm not going to become the victim because I believe Your word when it says: "greater is He who is in {me} than he who is in the world." [*1 John 4:4 (NASB, personalized)*]

If anything of what I just said resonates with you and your prayer today is: God, help me with this thing; give me strength. If that's you, with heads bowed and eyes closed, just raise your hand with a bunch of people in here saying: God, I want Your strength—(there's just hands going up). Yeah, let's pray:

Father, fill us with strength Lord. Show us Your purpose for our life, God. Give us clarity. And when that resistance comes—that opposition—Lord, help us to see that we need to embrace it, we need to lean into it; because that's just the way it is.

And, Lord, for those of us here who have (maybe) thrown in the towel and quit; God, give us Your grace, give us the strength and ability to get back up. Lift us back up, Father God, to keep moving forward.

With our heads bowed and our eyes still closed, let me ask you this question. Maybe you're sitting here today and this thought about God's purpose for your life—maybe you haven't even thought about this before. Or maybe you have and you haven't done anything with it. The reality is that every one of us in here—we're all created by God. We're all designed for something to do. And maybe you've come to a place where you wanted to begin a relationship with your creator. Maybe you've never come face to face with the reality of that: God has created me; He has a purpose for my life; and what He requires of me is simply to surrender myself to Him so

that He can do what He wants in my life. And you are sitting here, and if I were to ask you the question[s]: Do you have peace with God? Have you come to a place where you've asked God for forgiveness; where you've asked Jesus Christ to be the leader of your life; you've made that decision? Because I'll tell you what right now: I guarantee you if you haven't, you're facing resistance right now. There might be a pull in one direction and a tug in the other and that's a battle going on within you right now.

Are you going to lean in and are you going to say: Yes, God, I want You in my life; or are you going to walk out and stay the same? You are sitting here, you've never asked Christ into your life and your prayer is: Scott, just pray for me. Pray for me while I sit in my seat. I want to ask Jesus to be the Lord of my life. I want Him to forgive me. I want to begin a relationship with Christ that I do not have.

If that is your prayer today, just lift your hand; I want to see who I get to pray for. [You're saying:] I don't have a relationship with Christ, but today, I want to pray; I want Christ in my life. If that is you—ma'am I see your hand—praise God for you. Who else [says]: I want Christ in my life? Sir, I see your hand—good for you. I'm so glad you're here. Who else [says]: God has a purpose for me, I'm going to lean into it, I want Christ in my life—Scott, include me in this prayer? If that is you, just shoot your hand up, be bold. *Fry Road Campus*, here at the *Jones Road Campus*, let's pray and we're going to ask Christ into our life. Let's all pray together with those who are making that decision today—all of us, let's pray this together—say:

Father God, this morning I surrender my life to You. Jesus, thank You that You died for me to forgive me of my sin. I believe You're the Son of God. I give You my life. I believe You've risen from the dead. Now live in me. Fill me with Your spirit. Show me Your purpose for my life. Starting today I'm yours. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

Come on you guys; let's celebrate these people giving their life to Christ. Come on! All right!

Guest Speaker: Scott Rodgers

The MET
Metropolitan Baptist Church
13000 Jones Rd
Houston, TX 77070

Sermon Transcript Ministry
resource@TheMETonline.org

**So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed,
you will be strong in character and ready for anything.**

James 1:4

(New Living Translation, 1996 edition)

Legend:

(words in parentheses) = spoken by the preacher *but unnecessary* to the core sentence idea

[words in square brackets] = additional explanation for clarity *not spoken* by the preacher

{words in curly brackets within indented quote} = spoken explanation *not part of the quote*