

JESUS SUFFERED

Luke 24:46-47 ESV [Jesus] said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

Intro

included
Suffering ~~was~~ death, the death of sacrifice for mankind

- Jewish sacrifices point to Christ... shadow... a type
- Jewish sacrificial practices
- Removal of blood from the animal
- Razor-sharp blade without defect, drawn across the throat with a deep cut
- Unconscious in seconds
- Quick, humane, almost painless death

But this is far from descriptive of Jesus' death; bound, spat upon, beaten, mocked, whipped, and died a torturous death by crucifixion

→ And it was
Why? If death was required, why such a brutal death rife with suffering? Why not a quick, painless death? And what can we take away from the suffering of Christ?

1) Why did Christ suffer so extensively in death?

It was ordained by God - OT prophecy

Isaiah 53:10 ESV

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;

he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt,

he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;

the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

→ Riveting words!

↳ This is an immediate challenge → DOUBT

→ UNBELIEF

→ Subtitle of this section

References to Suffering – The Suffering Servant – Suffering prophesied
Isaiah 52:13-53:12 ESV

??

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you— his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind— so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. **Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief**; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

→ SPEAK COMFORT

- He suffered because God willed it
 ↳ Are you suffering? Jesus sympathizes with you

- can't address all ?'s about suffering... but know this... he suffered

2) Why did God ordain such a death?

Before we answer, two things:

1) The enormity of Christ's suffering was not primarily physical:

Isaiah 53:7 ESV He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

- His physical suffering did not cause him to cry out

*In fact, his suffering was great before an physical altercation occurred
Gethsemane:*

Matthew 26:36-38 ESV Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

*↳ imagine the sorrow
↳ Are you sorrowful? Jesus sympathizes*

Luke 22:44 ESV And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

*↳ people have suffered physically
↳ suffering foreign to humanity*

2) Christ's suffering was primarily a result of sin

He was made to be sin for us:

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 ESV Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

⇒ Mystery - Righteousness becomes ~~righteous~~ ^{sin}

He was made to be a curse for us:

Galatians 3:13 ESV Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—

⇒ Mystery - Blessing becomes curse

He was forsaken by God:

Matthew 27:45-46 ESV Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Flavel: It is not of the cruel tortures he felt in his body, nor of the scoffs and reproaches of his name; he mentions not a word of these, they were all swallowed up in the sufferings within, as the river is swallowed up in the sea, or the lesser flame in the greater. He seems to neglect all these, and only complains of what was more burdensome than ten thousand crosses; even his Father's deserting him, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It is a more inward trouble that burdens him, darkness upon his spirit, the hidings of God's face from him, an affliction he was totally a stranger to until now; here he lays his hand in this complaint. This was the pained place, to which he points in this dolorous outcry. (The Fountain of Life Opened)

↳ show your commitment to someone

↑ We will return to the forsakenness of Christ

• Do you feel forsaken? Jesus sympathizes with you. But you will not be forsaken if you are in union with Christ

3) Christ's extensive suffering demonstrates sin's expansive evil.

Not the complete answer, but it is certainly part of the answer

We see the evil of sin in humanity

- He was betrayed: "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48).
- He was taken captive: "Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him" (Matthew 26:50).
- He was deserted: "Then all the disciples left him and fled" (Matthew 26:56).
- He was falsely accused by those in the crowd: "Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward" (Matthew 26:60).
- He was spat upon and beat up: "Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, saying 'Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?'" (Matthew 26:67-68).
- He was falsely accused by those in authority: "But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer" (Matthew 27:12).
- He was rejected: "The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?' They all said, 'Let him be crucified'" (Matthew 27:21-22).
- He was scourged: "Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified" (Matthew 27:26).
- He was mocked: "And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head" (Matthew 27:29-30).
- He was derided: "And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads" (Matthew 27:39).

→ the complicity of humans in his suffering shows the ugliness of sin. But Jesus' involvement demonstrates the heinousness of sin even more

We see the evil of sin in divinity (Christ)

Forsaken of God

Spurgeon: The very word “forsaken” is one of the most tragic in all human speech. ... What calamities are conjured up by this word—a man forsaken of his friends, a wife forsaken by her husband, a child forsaken by its parents! But a creature forsaken by its Creator, a man forsaken of God—O this is the most frightful of all. This is the evil of all evils. This is the climactic calamity. ... For the Lord to hide His face from us but for a moment is unbearable. If this is true of renewed sinners, how infinitely more so of the beloved Son of the Father! He who hung there on the accursed tree had been from all eternity the object of the Father’s love ... His own joy had been to behold the Father’s countenance. The Father’s presence had been His home, the Father’s bosom His dwelling-place; the Father’s glory He had shared before ever the world was. During the thirty and three years the Son had been on earth, He enjoyed unbroken communion with the Father. Never a thought that was out of harmony with the Father’s mind, never a volition but what originated in the Father’s will, never a moment spent out of His conscious presence. What then must it have meant to be forsaken now by God! Ah, the hiding of God’s face from Him was the most bitter ingredient of that cup which the Father had given the Redeemer to drink.

↳ we can only begin to imagine the horror of sin as we see Jesus forsaken by God

What God the Father forsaking Jesus was NOT:

- Not one of nature, essence, or substance.
- Christ did not in any sense or degree cease to exist as God or as a member of the Trinity. He did not cease to be the Son.
- Not forsaken in regard of God's love, for John 10:17 ESV For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.

That mystery is so great and imponderable

- Martin Luther is said to have gone into seclusion for a long time trying to understand it and came away as confused as when he began.
- the mystery of that separation is far too deep even for the most mature believer to fathom

*If has been said
we could say it this way*

In some way and by some means, in the secrets of divine sovereignty and omnipotence, the God-Man was separated from God for a brief time at Calvary, as the furious wrath of the Father was poured out on the sinless Son, who in matchless grace became sin for those who believe in Him.

Flavel: The sweeter the communion is with God the fountain of good, the more intolerable and unsufferable is the separation from him; but none had ever so near and sweet a communion with God as Christ our Mediator had, for he was both God and man in one person, the beloved Son of his Father.

*↳ infinitely perfect communion means infinitely intolerable separation
insufferable*

The extensive suffering of Christ in death demonstrates to us the expansiveness of evil in sin; therefore, we should 1) see sin for what it is, and 2) see Christ for who he is.

The ugliness and horribleness of sin:

The sinfulness of those who added to Christ's suffering:

- betrayal, desertion, mockery, silence, deceitfulness, denial
- Can we relate? Are we above that? Really?

*The best we can hope for is that we abandon Christ
in his darkest hour!*

*Do you see that you are a sinner, and your sin
caused Christ to suffer... and it's ugly*

The suffering of Christ:

- **Flavel:** Beloved, if we would conceive aright of sin, let us see it in the angels tumbled out of heaven, ... see it in the casting of Adam out of paradise, ... see it in the destruction of the old world, and the Jews carried to captivity, in the general destruction of Jerusalem, et cetera. But if you would indeed see the most ugly colours of sin, then see it in Christ upon the cross, see how many sighs and groans it cost him, how bitter a thing it was to his righteous soul, forcing him to weep tears of blood, and send forth strong cries to his Father, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

How odious is sin to God?

- Required the death of his beloved son to purge sin away.
- All the angels in heaven could not satisfy divine justice for the least sin.
- All creatures in the world could not satisfy divine justice for the least sin.
- It took God sacrificing God to deal with sin

Flavel: But above all things I desire you to see often in this glass, in this book of Christ crucified (it is an excellent book to study), the mercy of God and the love of Christ, the height, and depth, and breadth of God's love in Jesus Christ, which hath no dimensions.

The greatness and beauty of Christ:

- Betrayal—Faithful
- Desertion—Always Present
- Mockery—Comforts
- Silence—Speaks through Word
- Deceitfulness—Truthful

2 people: ① Need freedom from sin - see the ugliness of sin
 - look to the one who can save you
 ② Waging war with sin
 - see the vileness of sin
 - look to the one who conquered sin