

"The Complaints of the Real Jesus"

STARTING LINE: How uncomplaining Jesus was in his suffering and sorrow is a remarkable thing.

Isaiah 53:7 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.

NOTES:**1. In his great suffering, Jesus did not complain:****1a. about being betrayed**

Mark 14:18 And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me."

In fact, he spoke of his betrayer with pity

Mark 14:21 For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

1b. about being abandoned

Mark 14:27 "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'

In fact, he spoke to the deserters with reassurance

Mark 14:28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

1c. about being denied

Mark 14:30 "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times."

→ He just stated that the denial would be soon and repeated!

NOT that he wasn't deeply troubled by all of this

Mark 14:34 "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

2. In his great sorrow, Jesus did complain**2a. about being neglected by his disciples**

Mark 14:37 And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour?"

Mark 14:40-41 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

2b. about being treated as a criminal

Mark 14:48-49 "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled."

But during the hours of his arrest and torment, "*he opened not his mouth*"

Quite remarkably!

Mark 14:61 But he remained silent and made no answer.

Pilate questions this silence **Mark 15:3-5** And the chief priests accused him of many things. And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. **(Mark 15:2)**

Here was the fulfillment of **Isaiah 53:3,7** 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...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.

And then, in the agony of crucifixion, he makes one last complaint – and it is spectacular!

2c. about God forsaking him !!! → Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

Psalm 22:2-8 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

Psalm 22:14-18 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet — I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

Here was the fulfillment of prophecy! **Isaiah 53:4-6** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes 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.

And here is the explanation of God's unresponsiveness to his complaint → **Isaiah 53:10-11** Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, 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.

ACTIONS:

a) Let us **be alert and attentive** (not sleepy and neglectful)

b) Let us **pray!**

1 Peter 4:7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.

Colossians 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.

c) Let us **be thankful!**