

The Suffering and Death of Jesus

Read: Matthew 26:30 – 27:50; John 18, 19; Psalm 22:1-21

A Pastoral Message

When we meditate on Christ's humiliation, we must consider both His incarnation and His atoning death. His incarnation is the wondrous mystery that He, the Son of God, took on a human nature. We cannot comprehend the glory and bliss He enjoyed prior to His incarnation. From all eternity He was truly one with the Father in glory and majesty.

When He became man, He was called Emmanuel: "God with us." The wonder of all wonders is that in infinite love He laid His glory aside. He never ceased to be God, but His divine glory was veiled by His human nature. Moreover, in His human nature He was in all points like unto us. Sin was the only exception.

His incarnation, however, was only the beginning of His humiliation. As the suffering Servant of the Lord, He descended to yet a lower state. He became obedient unto death, even unto the death of the cross. Salvation could not be accomplished in any other way.

Christ was ever aware of this. His delight was to do the will of His Father, to ransom His guilty people. He loved them to the end. Even when the sufferings of Gethsemane and Calvary were upon Him, He persevered with the readiness of perfect love and submission.

His sufferings were in harmony with His Father's will. He completely resigned Himself to this will and paid the ransom price for the salvation of guilty sinners. He loved them more than His own life.

In all His sufferings, He revealed that His sacrifice was the sacrifice of love!

1. **Q.** What was Christ, the Son of God, done for the salvation of sinners?
 - A. He took our h _____ nature, He lived a perfect l _____, He suffered for His people, He descended into hell, He died on the c _____, and He was b _____.
2. **Q.** When did the Saviour suffer?
 - A. During His entire l _____, but especially in the G _____ of Gethsemane, during His trials before Caiaphas and Pilate, and on the Cross of Calvary.

3. Q. In which nature did Jesus suffer all this?

A. Only in His _____ nature; that is, in soul and body.

4. Q. Why did Jesus endure all this?

A. Because He had agreed with His F _____ to stand in the place of His people, and to take upon Himself their sin and punishment.

I. His Humble Birth

The humiliation which Christ endured at birth consisted mainly in that:

1. He took _____ the _____ of _____, and _____ in the _____ of _____ (Philippians 2:7).

2. He laid aside the g _____ which He had with the F _____ before the world was (John 17:5b).

3. God sent His Son in the likeness of _____ (Romans 8:3).

Something to think about:

1. Q. Was Christ's humble birth the beginning of His existence?

A. (a) Yes. (b) No.

(Micah 5:2) *Underline the correct answer.*

2. Q. It was a greater degree of humiliation for Jesus to leave heaven and dwell among us, as He did, than it would be for a king to leave his throne and work as a slave.

A. (a) True. (b) False.

(Philippians 2:6, 7) *Underline the correct answer.*

II. His Life of Suffering

1. Q. What did Christ endure during His ministry?

A. (a) The Son of Man hath _____ (Matthew 8:20c).

(b) He _____ (Isaiah 53:3a).

(c) And _____, he hath a _____ and _____ (John 10:20).

(d) They wanted to k _____ (Luke 4:29).

(e) He hath _____ and carried _____ (Isaiah 53:4a).

2. Q. What did Christ endure in Gethsemane?

A. (a) His heart was so filled with _____, He was near to d _____ (Matthew 26:38a).

(b) Jesus being in a deep agony, prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was as it were _____ (Luke 22:44).

State briefly how Christ was treated by:

- (a) *The Jews:* “they _____ and _____” (Matthew 26:67);
- (b) *The soldiers:* They put a _____ on _____ and a _____ in _____ . They m_____ (Matthew 27:29).
- (c) *Pilate:* Pilate took Jesus and _____ (John 19:1).

III. His Suffering and Death on the Cross

- 1. They _____ Him, and placed Him between _____ (Matthew 27:35a, 38).
It was very painful. In Psalm 22:14-15 we read, “I am _____ out like _____, all my _____ are out of _____ . . . My strength is _____ up . . . my tongue _____ to my jaws.”
In Isaiah 53:5 we learn that “He was _____ for _____ transgressions, he was _____ for _____ iniquities; the chastisement of our _____ was upon him; and with his _____ we are healed.”
- 2. The most bitter part of Christ’s suffering was that he was made a _____ for us (Galatians 3:13).
- 3. Christ died:
 - (a) as a martyr
 - (b) a helpless victim of injustice
 - (c) because He willingly gave His life
 - (d) from complete exhaustion(John 10:15-18) *Underline the correct answer.*
- 4. **Q.** For whom did Christ die?
 - A.** The G _____ S _____ died for His _____ (John 10:15b).
- 5. Jesus knew what awaited Him.
 - (a) True.
 - (b) False.(Matthew 16:21) *Underline the correct answer.*
- 6. Did Jesus:
 - (a) cry for mercy
 - (b) complain
 - (c) suffer in silence?(Isaiah 53:7) *Underline one.*



IV. His Burial

1 Q. Who buried Jesus?

A. _____ and Ni _____ (John 19:38, 39). "N _____ brought a mixture of _____ and _____, about an _____ weight" (John 19:39).

2. The body of Jesus was wrapped in _____ with the spices (John 19:40).

3. Q. Did Christ's body see corruption?

A. (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(Acts 2:31) *Underline the correct answer.*

4. Christ, by His burial, has sanctified the grave for His people. Now the Christian can say: "O death where is thy _____? O _____ where is thy victory" (1 Corinthians 15:55).

V. His Descent into Hell

Where is hell? What is endured there? In Matthew 25:41 we learn that hell is a place where the lost are separated for ever from the gracious presence of God. There they endure the just and awesome punishment for their sins.

Jesus was never in the place where the final impenitent sinners receive their due reward. However, what He experienced in His last three hours on the cross was nothing less than the bitter anguish of hell.

The wrath of His holy Father was poured out on Him. This caused the dear Redeemer to cry, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me" (Matthew 27:46)? The agonies which Christ endured on the cross also teach us what the unsaved will endure in eternity.

Christ's sacrifice of love is the only foundation of the sinner's pardon and acceptance in the sight of an holy God. What a sure foundation is thus laid for the full salvation of lost sinners. Here is the most precious divine comfort, pardoning love and renewing grace.

How blessed are all who do turn in their great need as helpless sinners, without money and without price, to this Ocean of God's eternal love. They are washed and made whiter than snow!

Evaluator: _____