

## **Life in His Name – Part 45**

### **The Sufferings of Our Savior - John 18:13-40**

Crosspoint – Dave Spooner – Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

#### **Intro:**

- Last week if you were with us, we saw Jesus step forward with resolve and power, willingly sacrificing Himself in our place. “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13 NIV). And this, indeed, is what Jesus did for us, fully knowing how He would suffer.
- Typically, when we think of the sufferings of Jesus, we think of the physical torture He endured, the beating, whipping, crown of thorns, and slow, agonizing, excruciating death on a cross. We should think of those things, and for those things alone, we should honor, respect, and follow Him.
- However, this was not the full extent of His suffering. There was also suffering that came from being abandoned by His close friend, falsely accused and condemned by His leaders, and passed over by His people, those for whom He had done nothing but good. This is a pain that is internal, and it is an emotional, relational, and mental pain that cuts as deep as any whip and drives nails into the very soul.
- John does not spare us from this information but brings it to the surface so we would know the extent of the glory of God and His great goodness and love for us. He has suffered in the same ways we have, and we suffer in the same ways He did. He understands our suffering and our sorrows, and He carries them with us and meets us in them. He knows, He understands, He has endured the same types of sufferings, and He helps us by walking with us and will heal all wounds, heartbreaks, and scars in the end (see Isa. 53:3-5, Heb. 4:15-16, Rev. 21:1-8).
- We are going to pick up where we left off last week, where Jesus was arrested in the garden.

#### **John 18:12-14 NIV**

**Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him 13 and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.**

- When Caiaphas said these things, he was unknowingly prophesying what was indeed going to happen. John, guided by the Holy Spirit, wanted us to know this as well, that Jesus was this one man, and that *He was not dying from people, He was dying for people. He was not suffering from people, but suffering for people.* In these chapters and this text, we see how He suffered and died.
- John tells this chilling tale, and he does so in a way that focuses on Peter, then on Jesus, and then back to Peter to paint a contrast between the two. Peter denies what is true by denying, abandoning, and separating himself from his friend to avoid suffering, while Jesus stands by what is true and embraces the suffering to save His friends.

#### **Jesus is abandoned by His close friend**

#### **John 18:15-27 NIV**

**Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest’s courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.**

**17 “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter. He replied, “I am not.”<sup>18</sup> It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.**

**19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 20 “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”**

**22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. 23 “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.**

**25 Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.” 26 One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.**

- Have you ever been abandoned by friends who said they would stand by you and defend you, but when the time came, when you were in your trial, they were nowhere to be found? This is a whole other level of pain. You expect to be put through the wringer by those opposing you, which has considerable suffering and pain in it, but it is another, and perhaps deeper pain, to have your friends not stand up for or stand alongside you. And the closer the friends, the deeper the wounds.
- Jesus understands this pain and knows this suffering. You have a friend in Him who stays closer than a brother and will always stand by what is true. Peter and others could have stood up and defended Jesus and told His accusers who He was, what He did, and what He taught. But instead of having friends come to His defense, He took a slap across the face while they watched from the sidelines warming themselves.
- *The truth is, it is less painful to take a slap in the face for standing by the truth and in the truth than to have the dawn break on your darkness and weep after the rooster has crowed.* Jesus endured this suffering for you and stands by you and with you as you stand in and by the truth of what you said, what you did, and who you are. Trust Him to go with you, to help you, and to heal you. Praise Him and honor Him for what He has done for you.
- Not only did Jesus suffer in this way, He was also condemned by His leaders.

### **Jesus is condemned by His leaders**

#### **John 18:28-32 NIV**

**Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” 30 “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”**

**31 Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. 32 This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.**

- Here are the rulers and leaders of the Jewish people, including Jesus, who you would hope would have recognized Him for who He was, received Him with open arms as the long-awaited messiah, and become His staunchest defenders and strongest supporters. But instead of using their position of authority and trust to defend the truth and protect those under their care, they abused this position to benefit what they wanted for themselves.
- They had condemned the innocent as guilty so they could keep their position of power and maintain their religious masquerade. How ironic is it that they were trying to keep “ceremonially pure” to partake of the Passover when, in truth, they were playing the part of Pharoh with a hardened heart, persecuting the people of God, resisting God, and condemning the true Passover lamb.
- This type of suffering is a deep kind of suffering as well, one that destroys like a spear into the side. If you have been abused by those in positions of authority and trust, Jesus has too. Know that He is with you in your suffering and He has suffered in this way as well, and He will heal every wound in the end.
- Then we come to Pilate, the Roman Governor, who was trying to find out the truth of what was going on. What did Jesus do, and who was He?

#### **John 18:33-38a NIV**

**Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” 34 “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” 35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”**

**36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” 37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.” 38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate.**

- Jesus did not deny the truth that He was indeed a King. But, He was not of this world, nor was His Kingdom. It was from another place, meaning that He was made King not by anyone here, but He was made King because He was the Son of God. Now, one day, the kingdom of this world will become the Kingdom of the Lord, and Jesus shall reign forever and ever (Rev. 11:15). At this time, the way into the Kingdom had to be made by the King. We may now enter the Kingdom because of His grace.
- He is the truth and testifies to the reality of it. His truth is true, and it is absolute regardless of what we of this world think is true. Jesus is the one who has and will always testify to the truth. He is the one standard that all things are measured by, and what He says is true because it is.
- There is one final rejection and suffering that Jesus endured. Not only was he abandoned by His friends and condemned by the leaders, but He was also passed over by the people themselves.

#### **Jesus is passed over by His people**

#### **John 18:38b-40 NIV**

**With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. 39 But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”**

**40 They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.**

- The people at this point had a chance to “redeem” their “redeemer,” a chance to stand by the one who only did good for them. It was Jesus who healed their sicknesses and diseases, cast out their demons, calmed their storms, fed their bodies, and raised their dead. To them, He showed His goodness and compassion. He taught, helped, and cared for them; surely, they would support Him. This was another suffering that Jesus had to endure.
- But they “passed over” Him. They chose a criminal who they thought would give them what they wanted while passing over the one who could give them what they truly needed. Sadly, we continue to do this even to this day by choosing any and every “redeemer” but the one who can only and truly set us free. The one they passed over was The Passover Lamb. Let us praise Him for who He is and thank Him for His goodness to us.

### **Conclusion**

- Jesus withstood all forms of suffering and continued to persevere on our behalf. Know this great King who is the truth, who is the savior of the world, and the hero of your story. Know that He suffered for what is true, and know that in your suffering He is with you. Thank Him for what He has done, embrace Him for who He is, and trust Him in and through all things.

### **Communion**

### **Benediction and Prayer**

### **Growth Group Questions**

- Have you ever suffered in the ways that Jesus has from this passage?
- What does His suffering tell us about who He is?
- What does His suffering tell us about who we are?
- How does His suffering in these ways help you in your suffering?