

NECESSARY ROUGHNESS PART 1

Matthew 16:21

21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, HOW THAT HE MUST go unto Jerusalem, and SUFFER MANY THINGS of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew points out in this verse that Jesus knew He MUST SUFFER many things. In other words, Jesus knew that His suffering was *necessary*. Thus, I have entitled my sermon today, “Necessary Roughness.”

The phrase “Necessary Roughness” is a football term. It describes when a player makes when an excessive and, oftentimes, *avoidable* contact with another player. This is what we have in [Matthew 16](#), but with a slight twist. In this case, the victim (Jesus) is the one refusing to avoid contact!

Peter recognizes this and decides to “throw the flag.”

Matthew 16:22

22 Then Peter took him, and BEGAN TO REBUKE HIM, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: THIS SHALL NOT BE unto thee.

(Throwing the “flag” is what an official in football does when he observes a player doing what he SHOULD NOT BE doing.) This is what Peter is doing. He believes Jesus is doing something He shouldn’t be doing, like running towards contact. Peter believes Jesus needs to be avoiding contact (trouble). Thus, he is demanding that play be stopped while he has a word with Jesus.

But, what Peter doesn’t know is that HE’S the one committing the foul!

Matthew 16:23

23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: FOR THOU SAVOUREST NOT THE THINGS THAT BE OF GOD, but those that be of men.

(The word “savourest” means *to think*.) Peter *thinks* Jesus’ understanding of the situation is wrong. However, the reality is *his* understanding of the situation was wrong. The reason Peter had it all wrong was because he was “savoring” or thinking about what he wanted, rather than what God wanted!

1 Peter 3:18

18 For CHRIST ALSO HATH ONCE SUFFERED FOR SINS, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Peter didn't realize that Christ had to suffer for sins that we might have access to God. Someone might say, "Since Christ has already suffered for sins, does that mean we don't have to suffer for them?" Yes and no. No we don't need to suffer for sin, but yes we do need to suffer to cease from sin!

1 Peter 4:1

1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, ARM YOURSELVES LIKEWISE WITH THE SAME MIND: for he that hath SUFFERED IN THE FLESH HATH CEASED FROM SIN;

To suffer "in the *flesh*" doesn't necessarily mean suffering "in our *bodies*." When the Bible talks about suffering *in the flesh* it's talking about our natural man (or sinful nature) suffering. Moreover, our natural man suffers whenever we refuse to give in to its sinful desires. According to Peter, we must do this if we want to cease (be free) from sin.

Lastly, we are told to 'arm' ourselves with the same *mind*. In other words, we must *prepare* ourselves mentally to suffer by having the *same* attitude about suffering as Christ had about it. We've already seen how Christ viewed suffering as *necessary* and unavoidable!

Matthew 16:21

21 FROM THAT TIME FORTH began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

The phrase "from that time forth" is pointing back to an earlier conversation Jesus had with His disciples.

Matthew 16:15–17

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not REVEALED IT unto thee, BUT MY FATHER which is in heaven.

This is the “time” Matthew was referring to—the time when it was *revealed* to the disciples who Jesus was. Moreover, the Bible says, “From that time forth” Jesus began to show His disciples how He must suffer many things. Therefore, once we receive a revelation of Jesus, we should expect to suffer many things!

Hebrews 10:32

³² But call to remembrance the former days, in which, AFTER YE WERE ILLUMINATED, ye endured a great fight of AFFLICTIONS;

Our greatest bouts (fights) will take place after our eyes (minds) have been illuminated. Once we are shown the will of God (or His promises), there will likely be conflict in what we see (in our circumstances) or in what we want!

Matthew 16:21

²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must GO UNTO JERUSALEM, and suffer many things OF THE ELDERS AND CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Not only did Christ understand His suffering was necessary, He also understood that it must take place in Jerusalem at the hands of the chief priests and scribes! In other words, our suffering will primarily come from those closest to us.

Matthew 10:35–36

³⁵ For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. ³⁶ And A MAN’S FOES SHALL BE THEY OF HIS OWN HOUSEHOLD.

The reason affliction (persecution) comes from those closest to us is because they are ones more likely to convince us to give up our position (faith). We will give up our position if it means we can hold on to our relationships!

Still, we mustn’t forget who’s ultimately behind our persecution and suffering.

Matthew 16:23

²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, GET THEE BEHIND ME, SATAN: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Notice how Jesus didn’t address Peter directly. Instead, He addresses *satan*. This is a reminder that *satan* (the devil) is the often behind the affliction we experience from our family. Thus, our fight is with principalities and spiritual powers, not flesh!