

Series: At The Cross



Message Title: Christ's Strategic Suffering

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Isaiah 53:5-6

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:10

Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief: when you make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

Mark 14:24 "This is My blood of the new covenant which is shed for many."

Discussion Part 1:

Talk about why it would please God "to bruise Him". Remember that for the joy set before Jesus, He endured the cross. God is outcome minded. He takes no pleasure in sacrifice without an outcome. Discuss the precision of Christ's suffering and how He bled outwardly from His wounds for our sins, but was bruised (bleeding inwardly) for our iniquities (inward struggles for purity, wholeness, over impassible fault lines).

S.Marshall thoughts:

The 'blueprint' for Christ's redemptive work at the cross should prove to you how accurate and perfect God's love is for you. Religion is man's invention. Relationship with you has always been God's agenda. He is a family God, not a religious god.

Have someone read:

Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to be My disciple, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

Discussion Part 2:

Have you ever heard this quote and felt religiously intimidated or brow beaten? Read the above again except with a few verses that come before to better know the context.

Peter didn't want Jesus to go to the cross. Where would we be if Christ had not paid the full price to redeem us? You 'get to' deny your broken self.

Stephen Marshall Thoughts:

We are culturally so inclined to protect 'self' that the idea of "denying yourself" sounds sacrificial. Remember "it pleased" God to bruise Jesus. Why? To help and heal us. You get the privilege in Christ of letting go of your sin, sickness, sadness, shame ... that's your broken "self". Why would anyone want to hold on to that stuff?

Life Application:

Consider honestly what challenge you're facing right now in life. Is it sin? Christ suffered perfectly to deliver you. Is it sickness? Jesus suffered strategically to pay for that. Is it shame? He didn't hide His face from the shame and spitting. Whatever your challenge is, find the strategic Word and write it out as a prescription throughout your house, in your car, on your desktop. Take it 5 times a day as a prescription. "By Jesus stripes I am healed according to 1 Peter 2:24."

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Precious Father God it pleased You to allow Jesus to suffer and pay the price for every area in our lives in need of redemption and restoration. We pick up our cross right now by identifying with Christ's perfect work accomplished at the cross. Here at the cross we lay down our sickness. By Jesus' stripes we are healed ... (continue this way praying for one another according to the Word of God).