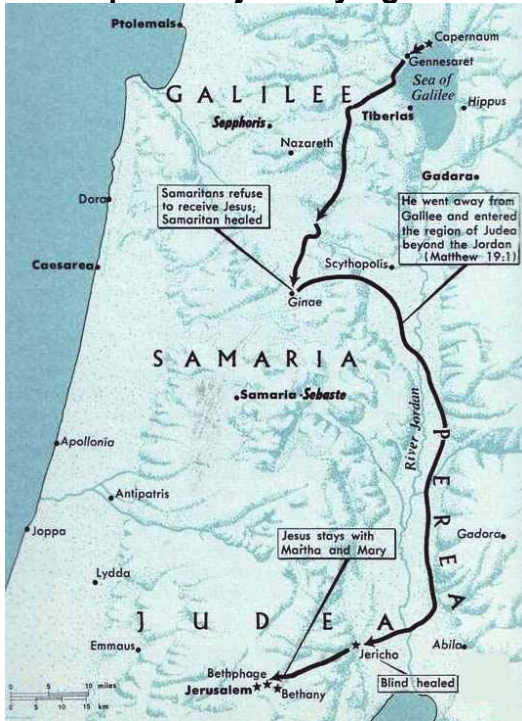


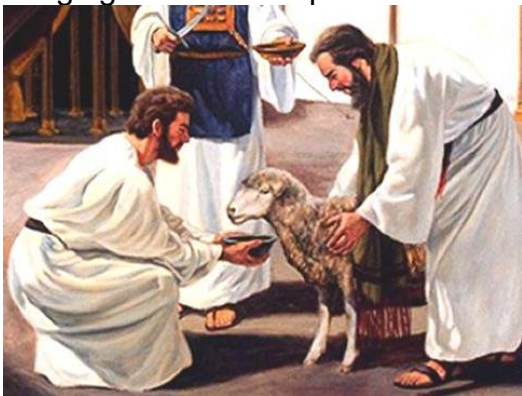
Matthew 20:17-19 “Why Jesus Suffered”

10.22.17

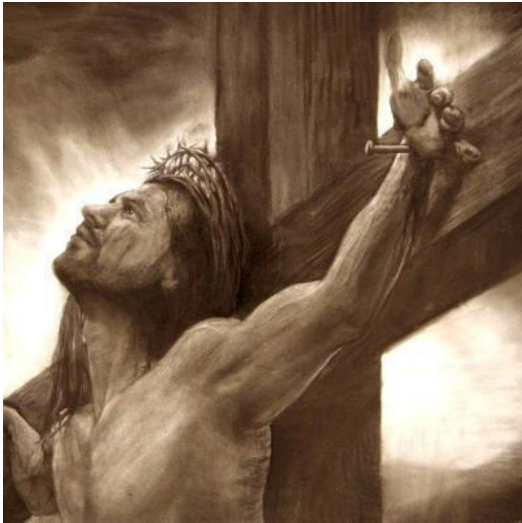
Jesus is almost to Jerusalem. He's death on the cross is just a couple of weeks away. See the map...He's journeying for the last time to Jerusalem...



...through Perea and along the way He's been teaching, preaching, healing and preparing... Preparing His Apostles for His death. It's Passover season and many Jews are headed to Jerusalem to celebrate their deliverance from Egypt and the passing over of the death angel during the 10th and final plague on Pharaoh and all of Egypt. They are bringing lambs to the priest...



There will be a lot of blood spilled in a few days. Including the blood of Jesus...



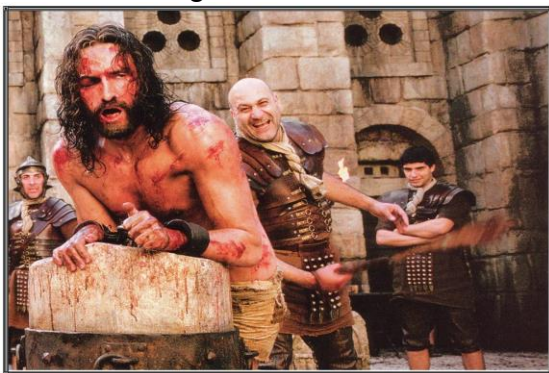
It had been almost three years earlier, when Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist had proclaimed... "Behold the Lamb of God!" Yes...many lambs were probably part of that crowd moving with Jesus through Perea on their way to Jerusalem...but, the final Lamb...Jesus Christ...was on the way to once and for all pay the debt of sin... And so, Jesus, in His preparation of His Apostles, pulls them aside and tells them how it's all going to take place...

Matthew 20:17-19

¹⁷ And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day."

This now, is the third of four predictions of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion, but this is the most graphic description yet. Jesus has never revealed the details of His death until now. He says, "I'm going to be mocked, flogged and crucified and then handed over to the Gentiles."

Hey Church family, the Apostles knew what this meant. Flogging, crucifixion...Gentiles...that means the Romans...because it's the Romans who used the barbaric form of execution that included being beaten...



before being hung on a cross to wither away. **What tremendous suffering!! Why? Why did Jesus have to suffer this way?** That's what we're going to see this morning. The title of today's message is: **"Why Jesus Suffered."**

Now as we consider Jesus' suffering, it is obvious to anyone who knows anything about what Jesus did for us that it's His death and resurrection that are the most important events in human history. For without them...we'd be hopelessly lost in our sin. Let me show this to you. **Turn in**

your Bibles to 1 Corinthians 15. What we're going to see here is what the Apostle Paul called the "First importance," and truly what we're going to read is the essence of God's plan to save us! **Look at verses 3 and 4.**

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

People can argue about what the most significant events have been in the history of the world all they want... It's no contest...it's the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! Those events are the most significant in all history and they are the Mt. Everest of time and what we just read points to reason #1 of THREE REASONS I'm going to point out this morning as to why Jesus had to suffer. Look at the verses again...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

What are the Scriptures? It's the Word of God. Jesus had to suffer because the Scriptures said He would. **Reason #1: Fulfilled prophecy.**

Church family, **may** we never forget: the sufferings of Jesus Christ were no accident. They were no "miscalculation." They were no shock to Jesus. He knew they were going to happen. Why? Because they were prophesied in His Word... They were foretold (in most instances hundreds of years) before He even appeared on the earth.

Turn to Genesis, chapter 3 and let me show you the first prophecy in the Bible about Jesus. Adam and Eve had just eaten of the forbidden fruit and by that one act of disobedience destined humankind to have to deal with the devastation of sin. **Look at verse 15.**

Genesis 3:15

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

You see the death of Jesus Christ is the primary event in history because sin and Satan, death, hell and the grave were all defeated by Jesus... Why? Because Jesus chose to go to the cross and bear the judgment of God...and pay our sin debt! Sin! That's why Adam and Eve hid themselves. They were estranged from God because of sin. Separation because of sin! And so, as Adam and Eve wiped the juice of the forbidden fruit from their chins...Jesus was making plans to come to earth to make things right again!

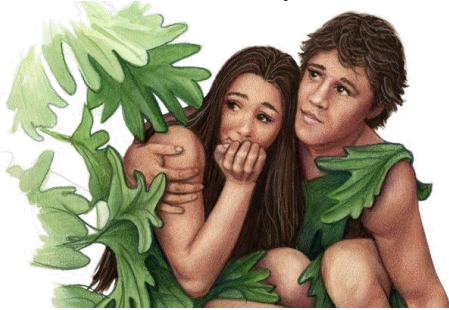
And this was all according to over 300 OT prophecies foretold by myriads of prophets. That's why this book can be trusted...Why? Because it's not a book written by just one man like the Book of Mormon (Joseph Smith) or the Koran (Muhammad)...it's a book written by 40 men over a period of 1,500 years in three languages on three continents with ONE THEME...God loves us and wants to be with us and the theme resonated through time by the fact that He would even be willing to give up His Son to such a despicable death all to give humankind the opportunity to be saved.

You see, contrary to the assertions of the skeptics of our day...Jesus was not some misguided patriot or some well-meaning peacemaker whose revolution went awry. That's foolish ignorance of who Jesus is. No! Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came as a fulfillment of divine prophecies to save humankind from whom? Ourselves...and our own human depravity and our own pain and suffering. And you see, because Jesus knew every single detail of His sufferings, I believe He must have suffered through the horrors of what He'd have to endure a thousand times over and over in His omniscient mind before they ever came to pass!

Think about this with me. Jesus was God in human flesh, because only God can tell the story before it happens, right? Only God can make history before it even occurs. Indeed, Jesus was God in human flesh... After all...who else but God could describe in exact detail before the events even happened: betrayal, be handed over to specific men: chief priests, scribes; the exact form of death and the exact number of days He'd stay in the tomb before He'd rise again... How can anyone know all of that...well they couldn't...unless of course they were God!

Yes, Jesus had to suffer because it was prophesied that He would...that's reason #1... **Reason #2** for why Jesus had to suffer was part of **God's Sacrificial Plan.**

Let's go back to where we were a moment ago to the Garden of Eden and Adam and Eve... They had sinned...and they were now hiding from God and they realize they're naked.



That's what sin does you know...it causes us to hide from God...and truly we're naked before Him. So, what does God do? He kills an animal, right? Adam and Eve tried to cover their nakedness with leaves, but that wasn't sufficient. Leaves rot.

So, God, Himself, shed the blood of an innocent animal to cover Adam and Eve's nakedness with that animal's skin. And so, an animal was slain to make clothes for Adam and Eve. By the way, that's why we wear clothes...evolutionists can't explain that. Well, with the death of that animal came the shedding of blood and this became God's requirement as a temporary covering of sin and a foreshadowing of the perfect and complete sacrifice of Jesus.

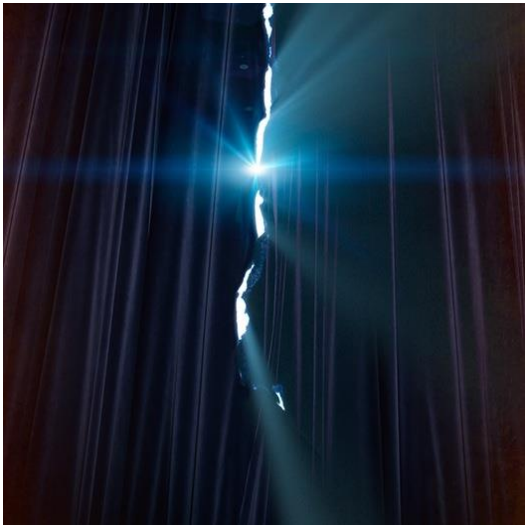
Turn to Hebrews 9. The Book of Hebrews was written to Jews who had given their lives to Jesus and yet, because they were so steeped in their tradition as Jews, the writer of Hebrews had to explain the OT significance of the animal sacrifices and the fact that these sacrifices no longer had to be made. You see, Judaism died with Jesus on the cross.

Hebrews 9:22-26

²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins. ²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself

repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Jesus was and is the ultimate sacrifice and is the fulfillment of God's sacrificial system to deal with the **guilt and separation from God brought to every human life because of sin.** Yes, God Himself, provided the sacrifice to cover OUR sin. Jesus became the substitute, He took our place...He who was unblemished, who had committed no sin...became the perfect sacrifice...the sacrifice to end all sacrifices. You see, while Jesus' blood was dripping at the foot of the cross on Calvary, about 2,000 feet away inside the Temple...this was happening...



...the veil of the temple was being torn into...from top to bottom...it was over the sacrificial system was complete... because the sacrifice...the Lamb of God was being offered up and that act removed the separation and created for humankind the ability to be in God's presence...like Adam and Eve had enjoyed before the Fall. We could now come before God and worship Him without ever having to offer another sacrifice.

When Jesus cried out: "It is Finished" He had accomplished what He started when He said as a 12 year old young man: "Didn't you know I had to be about my Father's business." Indeed...He had finished His Father's business! Oh the power of that thought!

Why did Jesus have to suffer: #1 To fulfill Biblical Prophecy, #2 To Complete God's Sacrificial Plan and #3 and this ties it all together...

#3 LOVE

Why did Jesus suffer? Because He loved us so much! What carried Jesus up that hill to Calvary? It wasn't anger fueled by the shouts of the people! It wasn't retribution and hatred for the soldiers who continued to whack Him with whips...as He groaned each step under the weight of the cross...no...it was love...for you and for me that carried Him up that hill. See it...



...Golgotha! The place of the skull. LOVE! That's what He felt in His heart as He suffered on that cross!

For God so **loved** the world, He gave His one and only son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life! Love... That's what held Him to the cross. Not the 7" Roman spikes...Love. **Oh how He suffered.** But, you remember the scene...there were two other men hanging on a cross beside of Him, remember?



They were suffering too, right? But, let me tell you something. There was something very different about Jesus' suffering. You remember when the Temple Veil was torn into? Do you know what else was happening at that moment...God was turning His back on His Son because Jesus had taken upon His body your sin...and my sin... And that's why He cried out the words David had written 1,000 years earlier in Psalm 22:1, "My God, My God why have you forsaken Me?" Jesus was drinking the cup...the cup of God's wrath upon sin that Jesus had asked if it could be passed from Him... But, God said no Son! You've got to drink it all...you've got to endure the Hell of separation from me so they won't have to!

Church family, there is no way we could ever fathom in our souls the terror of being separated from God. You see, that's the hell of Hell. It's not the fire...it's not the weeping and gnashing of teeth...it's the separation from God that's the hell of Hell and that's what Jesus endured. Why? Why did He do it...because He loves you! He LOVES YOU!!! Drink that in today...let that thought soak into the stomach of your soul. The God of the universe loves you and died for you because He wants to spend eternity with you. Jesus will build a room for you in the Father's house if you'll call on His name and repent of your sin and receive Him by faith!

Yes, Jesus suffered your death and mine and lived with the knowledge of all that He'd have to endure throughout the 33 years of His life on this earth. See the picture... See the glance toward the cross...



Could you imagine living with that? Listen, you think your life is hard. You think you're dealing with stress and pressure? Oh...we'll never know or grasp the enormity of what Jesus endured for us.

But church family, there's one more thing... There's one more thing I need to tell you that love did... Love raised Him from the dead... Don't forget the last phrase from Jesus' prediction to His Apostles on that roadside to Jerusalem in Matthew 20 verse 19... Just 9 words found at the end of verse 19. Nine (9) words that changed the course of human history for all time!

Matthew 20:19

...and he will be raised on the third day.

Love wins! Not Satan...not Sin...not Death...not Satan...not the grave... Love... Love brought Jesus out of the tomb three days later and at this very moment He's in heaven on His throne, looking into this room and into your heart and whispering into your spirit... I love you! I love you!

Why did Jesus suffer? Because He had to fulfill the plan of prophecy found in Scripture and He had to fulfill the sacrificial requirements and the plan of His Father and He just had to show you how much He loved you! That's why He suffered! Would you stand with me as we pray.
