

Suffering of Jesus

Happy Easter Family! He is Risen (He is Risen Indeed)

Welcome to **Week 5** of a “**Time for Action**”. Just as a reminder, we have been talking about the Greek word **Kairos** which means, “*a time when conditions are right for the accomplishment of a crucial action: the opportune and decisive moment. A moment of indeterminate time in which events happen.*”

Our theme passage for this series is

Luke 12:54-56 (NIV) ⁵⁴ He said to the crowd: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, ‘It’s going to rain,’ and it does. ⁵⁵ And when the south wind blows, you say, ‘It’s going to be hot,’ and it is. ⁵⁶ Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret this present time?”

Here Jesus tells the people that they can read the time of day and the weather from looking at the sky...but they cannot interpret what God is doing and who Jesus is.

For this series we have said that the “**kairos**” is “**God’s time.**” And here are the two important truths we need to remember as it relates to the “kairos” moments in our lives.

#1 - Kairos moments are always initiated by God.

#2 - Kairos moments always challenge us to think more highly of God, and less highly of ourselves.

Today we are looking at our risen savior as the ultimate example of the execution of a Kairos moment. Jesus modeled what it’s like to be faced with Times for Action, and to act accordingly while remaining, holy, obedient, and faithful. It’s not an understatement to express that Jesus experienced suffering on a deeper level than we ever have. Him having both a divine connection to God and human connection to man, he suffered double. How Jesus responded to suffering changed the outcome for mankind for all eternity.

Hebrews 5:7-9 (NIV) “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. **8** Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered **9** and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.”

Jesus’ suffering was purposed, He learned obedience from it. If we are going to live a life of obedience in a sinful world, suffering will be a guaranteed factor.

Jesus also showed us things we can learn about suffering and how we should respond ourselves. Jesus faced many Kairos moments. What to do with your future. How to hold on to

joy. How to be secure in being loved. How to see victory in the face of suffering. Jesus faced these things, and showed us how we can learn from them and apply them to our lives.

Kairos Truth #1 - The Cross Reveals that Suffering Shouldn't Be A Surprise

Isaiah 53:1-12 (NIV) Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Jesus saw early on that people would reject him. That's a hard element to factor in when you know that a large part of your life is going to be built around connecting people to God.

4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Not only was He going to suffer from the rejection of men, but obedience to His father would result in physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering.

7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

He was shown that His future would be painful and not what many of us would hope for.

10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

He was told that God would intentionally choose and support his suffering, but that there would be a worthy reward for Him and mankind on the other side of it.

How often do you see suffering play a factor in this prophecy?

This is a writing of the prophet Isaiah, and was penned between 600-700 years before Jesus was physically walking the Earth in his Human form we see in the gospels. As we saw in Jesus' early life through maturity, He was well acquainted with the scriptures that we would call the Old Testament. He would have grown up reading this passage, not only having a leading from His father, but actually having a mapped out textual blueprint of what His life was going to be like. In Luke 4 Jesus would even quote passages from Isaiah. This wasn't a surprise. He knew suffering was coming for Him. But it didn't dissuade His actions.

Let's look back through 53, see all the things He had foreknowledge of.

Are you looking at your suffering like it's something that has somehow surprised God, and has no place in your life?

[Are you letting the presence of suffering make God's presence seem questionable?](#)

No matter how bleak the picture was that was painted, we still got the Jesus we know and love. The one that was kind, and patient. The one that lived in obedience we could never imagine. Suffering wasn't a surprise for Jesus. He was leaving a perfect heaven to come to a sinful world. Suffering was expected. We have all been born and lived our whole lives in a broken world, suffering is a reality, but as Jesus modeled, it shouldn't be our defeat.

There are many verses in scripture that like Jesus', paint a picture of suffering being essential for our development in Christ.

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV) **6** In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **7** These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

This brings us to Kairos Truth #2

Kairos Truth #2 - The Cross Shows Our Suffering Does Not Have Dominion Over Our Joy

Jesus had suffered for 30 years before He made His disciples, and He knew there was more to come. He knew that things were going to get harder for those who followed Him, and those who would eventually believe in Him. So He made it clear that this shouldn't take their joy or hope away.

John 16:16-33 (NIV) "16 Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me."

This was a confusing concept for the disciples who genuinely thought their time with Jesus was just beginning. Jesus continues to explain.

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, “Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, ‘In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me’? 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.”

Jesus let them know that there is life on the other side of suffering, both here and eternally. **We need to understand that weeping is as much a reality as the joy.**

21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

Church can we pause, grasp that truth, no one will take away your Joy. Our Joy is not stealable. It is not up for larceny. We are handing over our Joy to would-be thieves because we assume they have power that they don't.

23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Jesus wanted to them to understand that through all the suffering ahead, their relationship with God would be stronger, but the disciples couldn't see the concept of joy without the presence of Jesus as they knew Him.

29 Then Jesus' disciples said, “Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”

31 “Do you now believe?” Jesus replied. 32 “A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.

33 “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

Jesus explains all this to His disciples because wants them to not only endure their suffering, but to overcome it with peace and Joy. Jesus knows what suffering looks like and He wants us to maintain the Joy He fights so hard to give us.

Are you offering your Joy up to unarmed assailants? Are you surrendering your joy to circumstances that are well within God's control?

Suffering can't take our joy, and it also doesn't mean we aren't loved.

Kairos Truth #3 - The Cross Shows Our Suffering Does Not Mean The Absence Of God's Love

We know that God loved Jesus. He makes that clear repeatedly.

At His baptism God spoke audibly

Matthew 3:17 (NIV) And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

At the mount of transfiguration

Matthew 17:5 (NIV) While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Even though God loved Him, more than we can perceive, It didn't stop God from pouring out suffering that was needed. Remember, back in Isaiah 53:10, it stated it was God's will to cause Him to suffer, other translations say it PLEASED the Lord to crush him, because God saw what the outcome would be. Look at Jesus plea;

Matthew 26:36-44 (NIV) Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

How many of us as parents shut down when we see our children are overwhelmed? How often do we change our circumstances to nurture the sadness of our children? It's hard to be a parent and watch your child hurt.

39 Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." 40 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. 41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." 42 He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done." 43 When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. 44 So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

It's one thing to deny our children a request once, repetition makes it harder.

Have you ever had a child cry out “You don’t love me” when being punished, disciplined, or suffering? Our human understanding translates to “My desires being met means i’m loved,” God doesn’t just show us love by giving us our desires. He shows us love by taking us through the things that make us more like Jesus, including suffering.

Luke 22:43 (NIV) An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

The most painful moment we see the love of God present in suffering is when He loved you and I enough to let His son suffer. What looked like Abandonment to Jesus, was a declaration of love for us.

Matthew 27:45-46 (NIV) From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”)

Jesus suffered mockings. Jesus suffered violence. He suffered abuse. He suffered scorn. He suffered abandonment. He suffered pain. But the feeling that His father had turned from Him was beyond any pain this earth had shown him thus far. But even in this moment, God’s love we present in abundance.

Do you look at suffering like God no longer loves you? Are you bittering your heart towards God because you think your circumstances are His bitterness towards you?

How many of you have had to tell your Children no and hated it? How many of you have had to hear your children hurt through something that was better for them? You know it breaks your heart, but it doesn’t stop you from loving them. Know that God isn’t lacking in love when you are suffering either.

Our last truth is this;

Kairos Truth #4 - The Cross Shows There Is No Suffering God Can’t Use For Victory

Jesus knew what the outcome would be, He knew that victory was waiting and that helped him push forward:

Hebrew 12:2-3 (NIV) fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

There was no force on this earth that could have kept Jesus on that cross except His love for us, and obedience to His father.

He approached the cross knowing that as His Father declared, it was the path to victory. IT wasn't just suffering, it was the way for creation to taste the victory of redemption.

There is victory on the other side of our suffering, and God is going to make it into something beautiful. He did it for Jesus, and the apostle Paul shows us that the same is true for us.

Romans 8:16-28 (NIV) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Sharing in suffering is part of being in the family. Sharing in suffering means we are following the example of Christ. **Being Christ-like isn't just warm fuzzy love. Being Christ like means persevering through suffering to arrive at VICTORY**

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

God sees your suffering. His heart breaks for what breaks yours. But He isn't looking at this life or this world as the end of the story. He KNOWS the real victory waiting for us.

God is pushing us onward. He is calling us home, and rooting for each step we take towards HIM.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

It's not a test He's waiting for us to pass, but a process for us to grow through. He knows our heart. He knows our spirit. He sees exactly where we are.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Do you think it was easy for Jesus to understand this concept as He felt the nails driven in? Do you think it was easy as the blood from His face made it too hard to see? Do you think it was easy for Him to see God was going to work it all together for good as He pulled up for breath on the cross?

Of course not. None of that was easy, but it didn't make it less true.

If Jesus' crucifixion and death can be worked together for Good, then can't you believe God can work your circumstances for good?

If we don't believe that, then what are we celebrating today?

Do you believe that God can use your suffering? Then it should change how you view your suffering.

Isaiah 48:10 (NIV) See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.

Refining process of metal looks a lot like suffering if you are the metal, but it comes out purer and stronger.

Suffering is not random pain we endure, but rather part of the path of victory when God takes every broken thing and makes it into something beautiful and eternal.

If you don't know Jesus yet, all you see is the suffering. It's when you meet Jesus that you finally see the Victory that is possible. Jesus modeled what to do with suffering throughout His Kairos moments, today we are going to close with this;

The ultimate Kairos moment: What do you do with Jesus?

If you don't know Jesus you are at the Kairos moment of accepting or rejecting the offer of salvation all this day represents. Is this the day you realize you need a savior? Is this the day you allow your suffering to no longer be collateral damage of a sinful world, and allow it to become part of your victory?

If you are a believer you are at the Kairos moment of what do you do with you with the Jesus you already know?

Are you daily taking up your cross and following Him?

Are you at the place where you are on the verge of laying your cross down?

Jesus saw the victory ahead and kept pushing. For you believers, I encourage the same. Press on to the victory ahead.