

*April 13, 2014*

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**TIME OF REFLECTION**

“This horror of pain is a rather low instinct and...if I think of human beings I’ve known and of my own life, such as it is, I can’t recall any case of pain which didn’t, on the whole, enrich life.”

“I can say that I never knew what joy was like until I gave up pursuing happiness, or cared to live until I chose to die. For these two discoveries I am beholden to Jesus.”  
~Malcolm Muggeridge (1903-1990), English journalist

“It is almost taken for granted throughout the New Testament that tribulation is the normal lot of Christians in this age: it is those who suffer for and with Christ now who will share his glory. ‘No cross, no crown.’”  
~F.F. Bruce (1910-1990), noted biblical scholar

“The wound is the place where the Light enters you.”  
~Rumi, 13<sup>th</sup> century Persian poet

“...as concerning faith we ought to be invincible, and more hard, if it might be, than [a] stone; but as touching charity, we ought to be soft, and more flexible than the reed or leaf that is shaken with the wind, and ready to yield to everything.”  
~Martin Luther (1483-1546)

“Suffering, then, is a badge of true discipleship.”  
~Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), pastor-theologian  
executed for his opposition to the Nazis

“Paul paid dearly for his loyalty to the freeness and universality of the gospel.”  
~John Stott (1921-2011), British theologian and pastor

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## *Worship through the Word*

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**SERMON** – “Setting our Sights on Suffering and the Radical Hospitality of the Gospel”  
*Pastor Don Willeman*

**SERMON PASSAGES** – *selected passages (NASB)*

*Acts 9:11,13-16* - The Calling of Paul

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to [Ananias], “Get up and go...inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul.... <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup> and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.” <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; <sup>16</sup> for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

*Acts 14:19-22* - Paul’s first missionary journey

<sup>19</sup> ...having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. <sup>20</sup> But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe. <sup>21</sup> After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, <sup>22</sup> strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

*Acts 16:22-25* - Paul in Philippi

<sup>22</sup> The crowd rose up together against [Paul and Silas], and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; <sup>24</sup> and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. <sup>25</sup> But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them....

*Luke 19:37-41* - Jesus’s entry into Jerusalem

<sup>37</sup> As soon as [Jesus] was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, <sup>38</sup> shouting: “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup> Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.” <sup>40</sup> But Jesus answered, “I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!” <sup>41</sup> When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it....