



# **Peninsula City Church**

**Jesus Said...**

**Jesus knows, but do you?**

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# Jesus knows, but do you?

## An Introduction

**Q.** Have you felt the pain of betrayal, denial or being abandoned, what did you do about it?

You know the pain of being betrayed by a friend or someone you love, for someone who denied they know you when it counted, or to be abandoned is almost too much for some to bear. This might come in various shapes, but the end result is the same, a pierced heart in agonising pain. Jesus has felt the horrible pain of these and what follows is some of that story.

## 1. Jesus knows what it's like to be betrayed, denied & abandoned

**Q.** What was it that happened to Jesus to break His heart?

He was betrayed:

Jesus was betrayed by one of His closest. In fact, He was sold out for profit. Judas was more interested in the cash than his friendship with Jesus.

<sup>14</sup> “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests <sup>15</sup> and asked, ‘How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?’ And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.

<sup>16</sup> From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus” (Matt 26:14-16 NLT)

“Up, let's be going. Look, My betrayer is here!” (Matt 26:46 NLT)

Jesus was also denied:

Not only did Jesus know the pain of betrayal, but also that of His friend denying that they knew Him. Jesus knew what was going to happen and yet He tried to help Peter deal with what he would do. However, Peter still went ahead and denied knowing Him to save face.

“Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, Peter-- this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know Me’” (Matt 26:34 NLT)

<sup>69</sup> “Meanwhile, Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant girl came over and said to him, ‘You were one of those with Jesus the Galilean.’ <sup>70</sup> But Peter denied it in front of everyone. ‘I don't know what you're talking about,’ he said. <sup>71</sup> Later, out by the gate, another servant girl noticed him and said to those standing around, ‘This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.’ <sup>72</sup> Again Peter denied it, this time with an oath. ‘I don't even know the Man,’ he said.

<sup>73</sup> A little later some of the other bystanders came over to Peter and said, ‘You must be one of them; we can tell by your Galilean accent.’ <sup>74</sup> Peter swore, ‘A curse on me if I'm lying—I don't know the man!’ And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Suddenly, Jesus' words flashed through Peter's mind: ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny three times that you even know Me.’ And he went away, weeping bitterly” (Matt 26: 69-75 NLT).

He was also abandoned:

The reason for Him being forsaken was because of the sin of humanity that was now on Him. So, the Father could not look at Him. This should tell us something about the dreadfulness of sin that the Father could not be with Jesus while He carried the sin of humanity. When Jesus was suffering on the cross, He cried out,

<sup>45</sup> “At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. <sup>46</sup> At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, Lema Sabachthnai?’ which means ‘My God, My God, why have you abandoned Me at this time?’ (Matt 27:45-46 NLT).

King David first spoke this phrase in Psalm 22,

<sup>1</sup> “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” Why are you so far away when I groan for help? <sup>2</sup> Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer. Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief” (Ps 22:1-2 NLT).

Jesus has felt the horrible pain of being betrayed, denied and abandoned. However, He was bigger than the pain of these. In fact, He showed us how to deal with such things. That is, He rested in the Father’s keeping.

## **2. Jesus knows what it’s like to be in the Father’s keeping**

**Q.** Do you know how to go deeper than the pain?

Jesus understood how to rest in the Father’s safe keeping. Even in the midst of the pain of being betrayed, denied and forsaken, His focus was the Father. The heart pain must have been excruciating, but Jesus kept His focus on the Father’s ability to be able to keep Him. That is why He was able to say the following.

“Then Jesus shouted, ‘Father, I entrust My spirit into Your hands!’ And with those words, He breathed His last” (Lk 23:46 NLT)

When His work was complete, He then said,

“Jesus said, ‘It is finished!’ Then He bowed His head and released His spirit” (Jn 19:30 NLT).

This whole act of sacrifice was to heal us because of the effects of sin. He did this personally in His body and not some other way through some form of substitution. It was Jesus that died and felt the pain because of our sin.

“He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed” (1 Pet 2:24 NLT).

Therefore, Jesus knew what it was like to be in the Father’s keeping. He is able to encourage us to do the same and reassure us that it does work. As the Father kept Him, the Father can also keep us. Even in the midst of the pain of betrayal, denial or being forsaken.

## **Some concluding thoughts**

So, coming back to the opening question,

**Q.** Have you felt the pain of betrayal, denial or being abandoned, what did you do about it?

What have you done about it up until this point in your life? Jesus Christ has shown us and given us a better way to deal with the pain. That is, to rest in the Father’s keeping. This Good Friday we can take confidence that it does work. Like any sinner even the woman caught in adultery (as we saw earlier in our service), Jesus died on the cross for us while we were still sinners. As Paul said to the local church in Rome,

“But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners” (Rom 5:8 NLT).

The pain of being betrayed by a friend or someone you love, for someone to deny they know you or to be abandoned is very real and can almost be too much to bear. As we have seen Jesus has felt the horrible pain. But as we have seen, the Father kept Him; and the Father can also keep us. Even in the midst of the pain of betrayal, denial or being abandoned.

Imagine this; a friend reads a Good Friday poem that they have written. You sit and listen, and as they read it, it takes you to a place that you had not thought too much about before. You find yourself overwhelmed by powerful emotions, which draw you into a place of deep, intense pain because of your sinfulness of betrayal, denial and haven abandoned Him. But you also feel immense thankfulness because of Jesus' great mercy. The poem is called "**The Pain of Love**," and it goes like this,

"His soul crushed beneath the weight of betrayal,  
Our treachery has such a sting in its tail.  
Oh, the pain of it all.

Alone forsaken He's no longer desired,  
His heart broken, our need for Him has expired.  
Oh, the pain of it all.

Forsaken, abandoned, He's left all alone,  
He's in utter agony because what we have done.  
Oh, the pain of it all.

He came to free us from our self-made jail,  
As sin ruled supreme ever since our betrayal.  
Oh, the pain of it all.

In reality, what more can be said?  
He hangs cross bound, lifeless and dead.  
Oh, the pain of it all.

Jesus held to His cross by incredible love,  
Willingly, He came from heaven above.  
Oh, the pain of love."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Podhaczky "The Pain of Love." Written for the Good Friday service 2017.