

PPP (Pain is Part of the Process)

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-5 Larry: Womens min Mtg. Fresh Hope. Missions Class. Better Together/Worship.
- B. Slide6-8 Larry *Hani Update:*

II. Slide9 **Intro:** *PPP (Pain is Part of the Process)*

- A. Sometimes we *suffer* because we're **rebelling against God...**
Sometimes we *suffer* because we're **obeying God.**
- B. During Jesus' *farewell address* to His disciples, He was drawing for them a **dark picture** of what was to come. He doesn't **lighten** in any way the **dark picture** He had drawn, **but rather shades it in** more deeply.¹

III. Slide10 **FOREWARNED IS TO BE FOREARMED (1-4)**

- A. (1) Jesus is preparing them for *rough weather ahead*.
- B. (2) **Note: They will put you out. Indeed. They will do these things. Not if but when their hour comes.**
- C. Slide11 **Producing Diamonds.** The exact mechanism of the production of diamonds is still a matter of debate among geologists, **but** it is certain that **both tremendous heat and tremendous pressure** are required for **the crystallization of carbon** into this form.
 1. Imagine for a moment communicating w/a *diamond in the rough*, this hunk of carbon. It's about to be placed into the most intense **pressure** & put under the most tremendous amount of **heat** that it will ever experience.
 2. It doesn't understand the **beauty** that we understand when we think *Diamond*. **As much as you try to convince** that hunk of Carbon, or try to **warn** it of its **coming persecution**, it will never fully understand **till** it's right in the midst of it. **But** you send the warning out, so when its in the midst of it, it can remember back, **there is an end to this torment & it is supposed to be Glorious.**

¹ Stibbs, Search The Scriptures, pg.273.

- D. I went to a Diamond factory in Israel. We saw how a ruff stone is **cut** many times. Then taken to the **grinding stone**. Then **polished**...before it was *beautiful*. We are in the same process.
1. There must be *friction, cutting, reshaping, & polishing* w/trials/pain/suffering in our lives.
 - a) So what is your pain today? Physical, emotional, relational, financial, spiritual?
 - b) **Where** are you feeling the **heat** & the **pressure** in your life?
 - c) Would you say you're in the *cutting, reshaping, or the polishing* stage?
 - d) Remember, **the end**...is **glorious**! Rom.8:18 *Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.*
- E. **Slide12** (2) Don't be surprised when you are **persecuted** by *religious people*. This has been going on since **Cain & Abel** (Cain was religious).
- F. **When whoever kills you** - think of the 11 in front of Him he's talking to.
1. **Andrew** was crucified. **Bartholomew** was beaten and crucified. **James**, the lesser, was stoned & clubbed to death. **James**, the major, beheaded. **John** was exiled for his face, died of old age. **Judas**, not Iscariot, stoned to death. **Matthew**, speared to death. **Peter** was crucified upside down. **Philip & Simon** were both crucified. **Thomas** was speared to death. **Matthias** was stoned to death. *Fox's book of martyrs*
- G. **Slide13a** Every **cut** made on a **diamond** is for a purpose, & chosen with much care...to give it even more *color, fire & brilliance*.
1. A diamond is considered the most beautiful stone *because of its cuts* (in raw form it's pretty ugly).
 2. One diamond cutter took **2 months** before he picked up his chisel & rapped it **w/one blow**. (It was on the *Liberator Diamond* largest ever found in **Venezuela**)
 - a) In honor of Simon Bolívar, liberator of Venezuela, from Spanish government. Discovered in 1942 in *la Gran Sabana Venezuela*; it weighed **155 carats**. It was purchased by Harry Winston in 1943. It was cut in 4 diamonds.
 3. **Slide13b** That same type of care goes into **every blow** that is allowed to come **your way**.
Left uncut they are **not brilliant & will never sparkle**.

- a) Intense **Pressure**, tremendous **Heat**, special **cuts**, & much **polishing**, is what is needed for it to show its *fire, luster, color, & beauty*.
 - b) Would you rather stay a hunk of carbon?
4. The world doesn't realize that the worse they could do to us is make us *shine brighter*.

IV. Slide14a **GAINES & LOSSES (5-15)**

- A. (5) No one is asking Him *NOW*. (yet *Thomas* did in 14:5. And *Peter* did in 13:36,37)
- B. What does Jesus reveal here, as the persecuted believers *main line of defense*?
 - 1. The power of the Spirit in their lives. (and that's how we can specifically pray)
- C. (6,7) **Sorrow** has filled your heart, *Nevertheless*...here He *shades in* the already dark picture. [as a *good Physician* continues to tell you **all** the bad news about the disease]
 - 1. Slide14b Sometimes the **heart** needs to have **funeral**, so it can **heal up & move on**. Don't shortcut pain or shortchange suffering.
- D. Christian leadership is about sorrow/sacrifice for the well-being of *others*.
 - 1. If you want to be a good **husband**, sacrifice for the well-being of your **wife and children**.
 - 2. If you want to be a good **mother**, sacrifice for the well-being of your **husband and children**.
 - 3. If you want to be a good *business leader, ministry leader, civic/community leader*, sacrifice for the well-being of **others**.
- E. Slide14c (7) I tell you **the truth** - I always think, *Wait, You weren't earlier? :*)
 - 1. In conversations, Easterners often **exaggerate** so as to pay compliments to one another. At times what they say is in the form of a **joke**.
 - 2. The word **truth** is thus frequently used in order to carry conviction.
 - 3. *I tell you the truth* means what I am telling you is **truth**, not a **joke** or an **exaggeration**. It is something that I can sustain.
 - 4. Jesus often spoke in **parables** and **figures of speech**. When He would speak of His death, they didn't always take it seriously.

- F. Slide14d Your advantage that I go away (die) - as Oscar Hammerstein II said,
A bell's not a bell 'til you *ring it*, **A song's** not a song 'til you *sing it*,
Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay, **Love** isn't love 'til you *give it away*.
- G. Slide15a **The Helper**, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter, our Guide, our Counselor, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of glory, the Eternal Spirit, the Holy Spirit.
1. He is represented as *Water, Oil, Wind, Fire, Dove, & a Seal* (i.e. a wax seal).
- H. (8-11) **He will convict** the world of sin - *He will*, not we will.
1. We tend to want to do the convicting...
 - a) Someone needs to **convict** them - I'll do that.
 - b) Someone needs to **judge** their situation - I'll do it.
 - c) Someone needs to show them **righteousness** - I'm available :)
 2. See, we tend to be *bible lovers*, but not **HS lovers** (we need to be *both*).
 - a) How about letting the Holy Spirit do **His** work?
- I. Slide15b (9) **Of sin** because they do not believe in Me - **Sin** is *rebellion against God* and this rebellion reached its climax in the crucifixion of Jesus.
1. The world cares about **crime**(wrong between **man & man**) but not **sin** (wrong between **man & God**)
 2. Sin is no longer merely **transgression of a law**(willful disobedience) but **refusal of a Savior**.
 - a) Today, the greatest sin is the failure to believe in Jesus.
 - b) Most people do not readily admit to being guilty of **sin**. They will admit to **failures** or **vices** or even **crimes**. However, **sin** is against God.
 - c) Man can come up with an **excuse** for committing some **crime**, but has **no excuse** for rejecting a **Savior**.
 - d) *To reject that dear Savior is the **sin of all sins** which damns the soul!*
- J. (10) **Of righteousness** because I go to My Father & you see Me no more -
1. Where Jesus leaves **off**, the Spirit taken **on**.
 2. He comes to authenticate the personal righteousness of Jesus.

3. **See**, in crucifying Jesus, the Jewish people showed that they thought He was **unrighteous**. *Only a wicked person would be hanged on a tree and thus be under God's curse.* **But** the Resurrection and the Ascension vindicated Jesus as God's **righteous** Servant.²

K. (11) **Of judgment** because the ruler of this world **is judged** -

1. Not just *going to be* judged, **but already is** judged.
2. The world's condemnation of God's holy Son to that awful Cross, boomerangs back as the most awful condemnation of the world which did it.
 - a) Sentence is already passed on **this world & its prince**.
 - b) **For the church**(the blood-washed & spirit-born) there awaits victory & freedom!
For the world, the flesh, & the devil...hopeless defeat, the bottomless pit & the lake of fire.
3. God puts **Christ** on the throne of heaven & sends **the Holy Spirit** to call out a people, to be a special treasure to His dear **Son** - even the Church.³

L. The Holy Spirit will **convict/convince** men of their *false standards* of **sin, righteousness** and **judgment**. *He will show them...*

1. That *the essence of sin* is **unbelief in Christ**.
2. That *true righteousness* is not that of *the works of the law* **but the righteousness seen in Christ** and declared in the Gospel.
3. That *judgment* awaits all who follow *the ruler of this world*.

M. **Slide16a** (12) **I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now** - same today. **We are still not spiritually ready for certain truths.** (i.e. what if God told me when I 1st got saved, you will be a pastor, have enormous responsibilities of people's lives, etc)

N. **Slide16b** (13) **He will guide you into all truth** - *The task ahead of us is never greater than the power behind us.*

1. For someone to guide you he must **see the way, & lead you there.**

² Bible Knowledge Commentary, Jn.16:10.

³ J. Sidlow Baxter, Awake My Heart, pg.169

2. **Guide dogs** are carefully trained to **lead** their master through the busiest traffic. And these dogs always seem so **calm** as they **guide**. They're not easily excited. They don't wait for a chance to dash across between the cars. Their eyes & ears always attentive. When all is clear, they safely guide their visually impaired master across the busy street. The visually impaired person is safe *for he walks by faith in his guide*. He trusts his **guide**.

a) I read... Guide dogs are trained to display *intelligent disobedience* - they will actually **refuse to obey an unsafe command from their owners** if they see a danger their owners may have missed, such as a car that ran a red light.

O. (14) **He will glorify Me** - The **Son** came & glorified the **Father**, **now** the **Spirit** comes & glorifies the **Son**.

1. **Science** often glorifies *knowledge*. **Philosophy** can glorifies *reason*. **History** often glorifies *great men*. **Society** tends to glorifies *its movie stars, rock stars & athlete stars*, **but the Holy Spirit** comes to glorify **Jesus only**.

P. (15) The Spirit helps us *witness to the world and glorify Christ before the world*, so **depend on Him**.

Q. **Our prayer**: O Lord, help us to **calmly trust** the HS, our **faithful Guide**. Teach us to **trust & to walk by faith** through *the traffic of our life*. Thank you for the promise, **you will guide us with your eye**. Ps.32:8