

THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST

RESURRECTION BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY, NIGERIA.

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Topic:

THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST

Bible Text: John 1:14

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Prayer

Father, we thank You for another great day like this, as we are about to go into Your word tonight, may we be blessed by Your word, Give the speaker more grace to do more for Your kingdom expansion, for in Jesus Mighty name we have prayed. Amen

Study

I warmly welcome everyone tonight, it's been a while here and it is due to one thing or the other, but I bless God for tonight, I appreciate Him for our new members and those that have been here for a while now. The Lord has led me tonight to treat a topic which will indeed change some people's lives tonight, it might be something we have heard before but we treated with levity because we did not have an in-depth knowledge of it but by his grace tonight, He would through His Spirit make us know deep things. Let us be sensitive to the move of His Spirit tonight as the Holy Spirit ministers to us Himself, Amen.

Jesus has given me the permission to deeply address what he went through for we humans so that we can know how deep his love is for us. What an amazing Father we have, let us be attentive please, I beg us. There has been a lot of stories we hear concerning how Jesus was crucified and what He passed through for our sake but it has been so much paraphrased to the extent that we now read the passages of His sufferings and even smile while reading them because they do not really make reality dawn on us. Before I move on, I would want us to understand something so that we will be able to relate His sufferings to our lives and get the message he is trying to pass across to us today. When Jesus was on earth, He was purely human.

John 1:14 KJV

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

This verse makes us know that just as Spirit and soul lives in a body here on Earth in which our body consists of flesh, Jesus also lived bodily here on Earth, he had flesh and lived like every one of us on earth now. Hebrews 4:15 KJV **For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.** This verse also makes us know that Jesus was like us here on Earth, He was tempted as we are now, He was human on earth because He came out of a woman and Mary couldn't have given birth to a Spirit but a baby with a

body made of flesh. Therefore, after Adam fell ,him and his wife were sent out of the presence of God, God needed someone to reunite man back to Him, a mediator ! and Jesus was the one fit for the task so he was sent to die for our sins.

A man like us here on Earth being asked to die for our sins, what a great love! I want us to understand that Jesus passed through three different categories of sufferings for our sins here on Earth and we will be looking at the three categories seriously this night. Before a man can be made to undergo sufferings by force, he must have done something very bad and severe, this is why you would see that when armed robbers are caught, they are made to pass through severe sufferings as a consequence for their action but our Lord was never found with any sin yet He was made to suffer for the sake of mankind. This reason is enough for something worth brooding on though, but let us look at the three main categories of sufferings Jesus passed through for our sake.

THE THREE CATEGORIES OF CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS

1. Emotional trauma
2. Physical torment
3. Spiritual agony

Emotional Trauma

1. Jesus **was rejected by religious leaders:** Jesus was brought before Pilate and accused of many things. Mark 15:1 KJV **And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.** Verse 3. **And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing.** Just imagine you being accused of something, you really know how you would feel especially when you know you are doing that which is right, you would feel bad, yes, because of the flesh you will surely react so far you are in this world and you are a human being. Despite the fact that the priests and leaders were the ones charged by God to shepherd and protect His people, to guide them towards the truth and help them listen to Him but they were part of those who stood against the truth, Imagine that scenario and the emotional pain it would have caused a human being. After He was brought before pilate, pilate's cowardice before the people resulted to the rejection for Jesus as well.

Mark 15:10-15 KJV **For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. [11] But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. [12] And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? [13] And they cried out again, Crucify him. [14] Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. [15] And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.** As human, just try to imagine and think how painful it would be when you are

in a situation which requires the higher authority to say the truth and the right thing but he says another thing and passes a wrong judgement just because of what the people would say on an innocent person, you see how painful it would be.! The true high king of the universe suffered injustice at the hand of a system designed to promote justice.

Injustice being treated unfairly cuts to the core of the human soul.

2. **Jesus was rejected by the people:** It was so painful that the same crowd who had lined the streets with palm branches and seemingly accepted their Messiah shouting "Hosanna! Blessed is the coming king of our father David!" As He rode into the city on the donkey now turned on him completely. Mark 15:13-14 KJV **And they cried out again, Crucify him. [14] Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.** What a painful and emotional heartbreak! Imagine the people Jesus taught, healed, fed and ultimately came to save would send him to die not caring for him. Even when Jesus was nailed to the cross, He was insulted by one of the thieves he was crucified with, Just ponder on this and think how you would feel emotionally if it were you in such situation, you would feel the people were ingrates ,but our Lord Jesus endured this emotional pain and did not react even though His body was reacting to such things as human who he was on Earth. I want us to understand that the cause of suicide most times these days is due to emotional heartbreak, a lot of youth has taken their lives because of this, yet Jesus did not utter any word which could have been used against Him during this painful period. What a wonderful personality!

Physical Torment

This part is the part that surprises me the most and melts my heart in recognizing the love of the Father for us. After Jesus was delivered to Pontius Pilate, even though Pilate knew Jesus was innocent, he could not do anything because the crowd pressed against him to crucify Christ and he could not stand for the truth because multitudes were standing against the truth, so he had to bend with the trend. This is to show that we are not to follow a particular trend because multitudes are following it, we are to be very sensitive and careful that we are not following a particular pattern because the world is doing it. This physical Torment is so so hard even for me to comprehend that I do not know how to explain it but with the little I would be given the grace to explain, I hope the Holy Spirit ministers to us through it.

1. **He was scourged:** When I related this aspect to my physical life, my body could not comprehend the kind of pain Jesus went through, because I see it as too much for a **human being** to receive but Jesus actually received something greater than how I imagined it.. Scourging was an incredible painful torture inflicted with a whip with **leather cords** that would commonly have **bits of sheep bone and sharp pieces of metal** embedded throughout. What a funny and strange instrument, we all know what a whip is, whip is mostly used for stubborn people or in remand homes where stubborn and hard hearted people are disciplined. If you do not know a whip, you must have seen soldiers

holding something like a cane that bends sometimes when it is held, that is also an example of a whip. If you have ever been beaten or dealt with a whip, you would understand the pain in receiving punishments with such an instrument. Now, it was not just an ordinary whip that was used on Jesus but the whip had leather cords which had bits of sheep bones and sharp pieces of metal attached to the whip. Just imagine why such cane would have been produced and who it was literally produced for? Actually, the special and wicked kind of whip was specifically designed to inflict maximum pain and blood loss as each lash would have ripped out large pieces of flesh. Have you ever been pierced by any sharp object before? I am sure you would know how painful it would be especially when such area is not treated as soon as possible, sharp metals were attached to the whip which was used to flog Jesus and even bits of sheep bones were attached to it to, you know how strong a bone would be and sharp it might be, all these were added to His whip and was used to beat Him 39 times with Him being tied to a post that He wouldn't have been able to scratch His body. What a painful experience, no, it is so painful he was inflicted with this deadly whip while a crowd of onlookers watched, yet he endured this great pain and even though He knew all these would happen to Him, He did not try to stop Himself from passing through such.

Mark 10:34 KJV **And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.** He predicted the sufferings here but He did not stop partaking in it. What a great love He had/has for us! Despite the fact that His flesh was ripped off and he lost a lot of blood, He was dragged to a hall called Praetorium. Mark 15:16 KJV **And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band.** Then something happened again, despite the pain he must have been going through because of His open wounds and possibly lost of much blood, a crown of thorns was put on His head, what a strange act of wickedness! We feel pain whenever a sharp object pierces through our skin, I just want you to imagine how painful it would be for a crown of thorns to be placed on your head. Not only that, they thought that the thorns in the crown will not pierce in Jesus body very well and they used a staff made of bamboo like (Reed) to hit him on the head to allow the thorns pierce through His head very well, Yet, He did not give up in spite of this painful incident, He allowed everything

Isaiah 50:6 KJV **I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.** He was spat on and was slapped for doing nothing, nothing wrong!, I just tried imagining a soldier whose palm is very hard to hit me on my cheeks, how painful it would be. Yet Jesus endured for your sake and I. When you hear of the word crucifixion these days, you probably instantly think of Jesus but back then, this was a method of torture, humiliation and execution that ancient Rome had used liberally on non-citizens, criminals who would threaten Roman rule. It was a death reserved for the absolute dregs of humanity but Jesus was made to pass through this just because He sacrificed Himself for the whole world yet some of us behave as if salvation was bought easily for us, we enter into and swim in sin and say I will ask God for the forgiveness of my sin when I like, imagine what an ungrateful act; if

only we think about what Jesus went through all for our sake, we would think twice before committing that particular sin. Despite all these things, Jesus was now forced to carry His cross, as heavy as it was then, I am it would have been made with hardwood. John 19:17 KJV **And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:** I suppose that Jesus collapsed when he was carrying the cross before Simon the cyrenian was compelled to bear the cross for Him because the people did not have mercy on Him for them to have dealt with Him severely then, then they could have made Him carry the cross throughout Himself but probably He collapsed.

Mark 15:21 KJV **And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.** Jesus, despite the wounds on His body, he was thrown down on His back, exacerbating his already open wounds. Then giant nails were driven into his palms just to hold Him on the cross and giant nails were also driven into his legs too for them to hold Him to the cross. Kai, can you just pause for a minute and imagine how painful it would have been for Jesus to be hung on the cross with giant nails pierced into his hands and legs to help hold Him to the cross, He was not tied with a rope to the cross but the nails were used to hold Him to the cross and the nails passed through His flesh, Jesus, you passed through a lot.

Now imagine you passing through some problems and saying Christ would not understand, wait, are you trying to say He did not pass through more than that? No matter what a man passes through here on Earth, it can never be compared to what Jesus was made to go through so stop comparing both together. Christ made himself of no reputation, he humbled Himself on the cross. Philippians 2:7-8 KJV **But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: [8] And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.** Jesus was obedient even unto death, what a long suffering! While on the cross, He was thirsty to the extent that he tasted what they brought to Him thinking it was water. Matthew 27:34 KJV **They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.** But when He tasted it and saw that it was vinegar, He did not drink it, imagine someone who was scourged and seriously dealt with still given vinegar to drink. The cumulative physical suffering and pain Jesus endured throughout this execution is some of the worst unimaginable in human existence. Jesus truly loves mankind

Spiritual Agony

Jesus felt the intense pain of loss and loneliness in the core of His soul, apart from the physical torment and emotional trauma, Jesus also faced spiritual agony that He had to cry out to His Father in heaven Mark 15:34 KJV **And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** The Trinity had never been separated for once but that particular day, Jesus felt He was forsaken because God had to shift His gaze away from Him due to the sin He was bearing. 2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV **For he hath made him to be**

sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Just because of us, the father could not behold his son due to sin, because his face is too holy to behold sin. Now think this within you, because of you Jesus cried out that His father had forsaken him, should you now disappoint him who became sin that you might be made the righteousness of God? It should not be at all.

Jesus truly passed through pains as human for our sake and this is what we are enjoying now ,therefore, we should not take this for granted please, never take His grace and love for granted, if He does not love you, He would not have suffered and died for your sake.

He is a king yet he came down to his earth and died for his people, this itself is enough for us to have a rethink of whatever we do. Tonight, I will not speak much, I believe you have understood the extent to which Jesus humbled Himself and suffered for our sake, look at your life and begin to plead for mercy that he should have mercy on you in every area you have neglected Him.

Tell Him to forgive you of every sin you have sinned ignorantly, those times you ignored His love, tell Him you are sorry, be sincere with this, if you are still not sincere with it despite the teaching, then you are on your own. Tell Him that you appreciate His love for you and you appreciate how he came to die for your sins, tell him you love him and you will ever do. Be intentional about this, he made this teaching out today for a reason, you should not be bothered about what you are passing through because Christ has passed something greater than that for your sake, Just thank Him and promise to do His will, promise Him that you would do whatsoever He tells you to do. He obeyed even till he died but you are finding it hard to obey him, it is so disheartening, just tell Him you are sorry. This is where we are ending tonight's teaching, please go and reconcile back to him that suffered and died for you. Stop swimming in sin so that his death on the cross will not be a waste upon your life. Always be grateful to him , respect and honour him. Ponder and do these things as you go to bed, do have a wonderful night rest ahead, Goodnight brethren in Christ.

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