

Mourn Him – Good Friday 2021

He was *destined* for pain

Destined. From the earliest point in time; the Garden of Eden. Right after the fall of Adam and Eve into sin. God is laying out the consequences, and says to Satan in **Gen 3:15** – “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head [he; singular], and you shall bruise his heel.*” (ESV)

It's the earliest hint of the Gospel; the earliest hint of a solution to the mess they made. And it involved pain. The solution involved Satan bruising the heel of Christ; Eve's offspring. The one who would bruise Satan's head. Or as Rom 16:20 says it, crush him.*****

But in the process, Jesus would *also* endure pain. Minor compared to the pain and defeat of Satan, indicated by the heel and head contrast, but pain nonetheless.

➤ I have plantar fasciitis. An inflammation of the *tissue* around my heel. Painful sometimes. And when I was in 5th grade, I had to sit out an entire year of basketball because of a *bone* bruise in my heel. It didn't kill me, it didn't crush me, but it hurt. A lot.

But at least I wasn't *destined* for it; not prophetically. At least I didn't know it was coming. Or how bad it would be. Or when it would start.

Jesus *did*. And the metaphorical bruising of *his* heel makes mine look like child's play.

➤ Not only that, but Satan pursued it. He *pursued* the pain that Jesus was destined for. Because he *loves* inflicting pain. Especially the pain of conflict. *Enmity* the verse says. Being at odds with someone. And just like it's painful for us, it's painful for Jesus. Who's *constantly* at odds with Satan. Because he was destined for it.

And then there's the painful threat of *death* he was destined for. As a baby. **Rev 12:4** – *The dragon [Satan] stood before the woman [Mary] who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.* (Rev 12:4b) Ask any soldier who's facing battle, and they'll tell you that the threat of *death* takes a toll. Just the threat. It's painful in its own right. How much more for Jesus at his birth? (*****)

And don't forget the physical pain of *torture* he was destined for. So much that it would disfigure him (Is 52:14). And the pain of disappointment he would bear due to the disobedience of God's people; foreshadowed by Adam and Eve (Gen 3:6-7).

And last but not least is the pain of others. Jesus was destined to endure the pain of those around him. From the actual birth pains of Mary, to the emotional birth pains of Israel. And their painful flight from *Satan*; alluded to in Revelation. (Keys)

Jesus was destined to endure *their* pain, and destined to endure ours as well. As we flee the evil one. As *we* fight the battles. It's not only *hard* to see those close to you hurt, it hurts you too.

And Jesus was destined for it. It's one thing to endure pain, it's another to know you can't avoid it. And for that, we should mourn him. (Sit on stage)
(Song – *Jesus in the Garden*)

He suffered *exceedingly*

Physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And who could have known? Sure, he was *destined* for pain; but it wasn't until David in Psalm 22 that we got a *clearer* picture. And even then, who knew Ps 22 was about the Messiah anyway? Not many. Yes, it went beyond what *David* endured, but maybe that was poetic imagery; not to be taken literally.

Then Isaiah showed up. And wrote Is 53. Leaving little doubt that David's Psalm, written 300 years earlier, was both Messianic *and* literal. Speaking of *exceeding* suffering. Turn there with me, will you? Ps 22.

➤ David starts in v1 with – *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* The very words Jesus used on the cross. Leaving no doubt that it's prophetic and literal. Depicting *exceeding* suffering.

And then there's the lack of rest; v2b. *I find no rest*. And v6 says he would be *scorned by mankind*; despised by the whole world. In v7 he's mocked. V8, taunted. It was exceeding.

And it continues in v12. Where he's intimidated by powerful people. V13 says *they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion*. Acting on Satan's behalf, who does the same. Obviously not knowing or not caring that he was *the* lion, the Lion of Judah. It was exceeding.

But that's not it. V14 says – *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint*. Just like what happens when you hang on a cross. In v15, he suffered exceeding thirst. And dies; laid *in the dust of death*.

But not before they *pierced* his *hands and feet*; v16. And stole his clothes in v18. It's all prophetic, all literal, and all fulfilled. He suffered exceedingly.

➤ But even *that* pales in comparison to what Isaiah said. So marred, he was beyond human semblance. So smitten that it could only be judgment from God. So burdened he was crushed. So grieved he was sorrowful. So despised he was rejected. Not because of anything he did, but because he was what we did. He was pierced for *our* transgressions.

His suffering was physical, and his suffering was emotional. Can you imagine suffering at the hands of others? Physically *and* emotionally? And doing so alone. Like POW's. What if you were rejected and forsaken in your suffering? By those *closest* to you. It's almost unimaginable how devastating that would be.

But that's exactly what happened with Jesus. In fact, he suffered the ultimate rejection; the rejection of his Father. The one with whom he was one, from eternity past.

But it's the spiritual suffering that must have been the worst. The perfectly holy Son of God, bearing the completely wicked sins of the world. The flagrant, rebellious, hateful, vengeful, petty, murderous, and sexual sins of the world. For all time. Including our sin.

The contrast couldn't have been greater. And the spiritual suffering couldn't have been worse. He suffered exceedingly. And for that, we should mourn him. (Sit on stage)

(Song – *Ps 22*)

He *had* to die

Another reason to mourn him. Had to? Yes. For 3 reasons.

First, it was God's *plan*. He predestined it. Planned and determined it. Sure, the crowds and rulers were willing and eager participants, but they did whatever God's hand and God's *plan had predestined to take place*. Act 4:28.

And that plan was for Jesus to be delivered up, crucified, and killed by the hands of lawless men. God's hand, used their hands, because that was the plan. He had to die.

➤ Second, it's God's way. Heb 9. It was God's *plan* for Jesus to die, and it's God's way. V22b – *Without the shedding of blood [death] there is no forgiveness of sins*. Jesus had to die, because God's perfect holiness and justice requires the sacrifice of a life for the offense of sin. Our sin is that bad to him.

That's why so many *animal* sacrifices were required under the Old Covenant. Over and over again. They paid the price, satisfied God's justice, and appeased his wrath.

Same now. Jesus had to die because without the shedding of blood, there's *still* no forgiveness. It's his way. And thank God. Because the animal sacrifices were insufficient. They were temporary, and we couldn't keep up.

➤ So God promised a *new* covenant. A *new* way to be forgiven and saved. One that would last forever. Heb 9:12.

He [Jesus] entered once for all into the holy places [heaven], not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption [an eternal release from the bondage and consequences of sin].

God, through the death of Christ, instituted a means of salvation that lasts forever.

One that purifies our conscience. V13.

For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer [under the Old Covenant, in the Old Testament], sanctify for the purification of the flesh, [14] how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

God made a covenant that purifies our conscience; our heart.

➤ But as with any covenant, or will as it says in v16, a death must occur for it to take effect. And not just any death, but the death of the one who made it. Leading us to the third reason Jesus had to die: a covenant requires it. V16.

For where a will is involved [or covenant; same word], the death of the one who made it must be established. [17] For a will takes effect [a covenant] only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive.

Jesus had to *die*, for the covenant that he *made*, to take effect.

Just like today. We make *wills*, promises of an inheritance, but they don't go into effect until we die. So too with *God's* will; *God's* promise of an inheritance: eternal life. He had to *die* for the promise to take effect. Jesus did. God in the flesh. *Therefore* [v15], *he is the mediator of the new covenant, so that those who are called [saved] may receive the promised eternal inheritance*.

Jesus *had* to die. It was God's plan, it's required for forgiveness, and it was necessary for his covenant to take effect.

➤ And for that, we should not only mourn him, but thank him. Something that Puritans of the 16 and 1700's were *particularly* good at. And one of their prayers is particularly appropriate. It's found in a *book* of prayers called *The Valley of Vision*. And I'd like to read it together as a way to respond. So let's stand. (**Prayer – Leader and Response**)

At Calvary:

Leader: There grace removes my burdens and heaps them on thy Son, made a transgressor, a curse, and sin for me;

Response: There the sword of thy justice smote the man, thy fellow;

Leader: There thy infinite attributes were magnified, and infinite atonement was made;

Response: There infinite punishment was due, and infinite punishment was endured.

Christ Was:

Leader: All anguish that I might be all joy,

Response: Cast off that I might be brought in,

Leader: Trodden down as an enemy that I might be welcomed as a friend,

Response: Surrendered to hell's worst that I might attain heaven's best,

Leader: Stripped that I might be clothed,

Response: Wounded that I might be healed,

Leader: Athirst that I might drink,

Response: Tormented that I might be comforted,

Leader: Made a shame that I might inherit glory,

Response: Entered darkness that I might have eternal light.

My Savior:

Leader: Wept that all tears might be wiped from my eyes,

Response: Groaned that I might have endless song,

Leader: Endured all pain that I might have unfading health,

Response: Bore a thorny crown that I might have a glory-diadem,

Leader: Bowed his head that I might uplift mine,

Response: Experienced reproach that I might receive welcome,

Leader: Closed his eyes in death that I might gaze on unclouded brightness,

Response: Expired that I might forever live. (Stay on stage)

He *had* to die.

(Scripture Reading)

He died for us

Mourn him, because he was destined for pain, he suffered exceedingly, he *had* to die, and he died for us. It's the elephant in the room that I haven't mentioned. He did it for us. He died for me. He died for you.

To deliver us from the present evil age it says in Galatians 1. Rescue us from a sinful, broken world where people are hateful and harmful. An evil age where Satan prowls about seeking whom he may devour. An evil age where the earth itself groans to be released from the curse and bondage of sin. An evil age where bad things happen to good people. He died to deliver us from that.

➤ What's more, he died for our sins, 1 Cor 15 says. He didn't just die to deliver us from this evil *age*, he died to deliver us from *our* evil. By paying the price for our sins, personally. In our place. Him for me. And no longer holding our sin against us. No longer counting it against us. Or counting it at all.

In fact, he went so far as to bear our very sin, in his *body* as he suffered and died. *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree* [the cross]. (1 Pet 2:24) So that by his wounds – physical, emotional, and spiritual – we are healed. Made *whole*. Made new. Now and yet to come.

➤ It's the very thing **The Lord's Supper** recalls and proclaims. The bread symbolizing the *death* of Jesus for our *sin*, broken so that we aren't; and the cup symbolizing the *salvation* of Jesus for our *life*. *This cup* [he said] *is the New Covenant in my blood*. (1 Cor 11:25) New Covenant, as in our new way of salvation, as a result of his death, his shed blood, on our behalf.

If that's you, if you believe that when Jesus died, he died for you; if you trust him to forgive you and save you for all eternity; this is for you. Only make sure you get right with him. Make sure you draw near. And make sure you remember all that he did; and *had* to do.

Let's take a few minutes for that, and when the time comes, I'll lead us in eating and drinking *together*. (Sit on floor)

➤ *The Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you.* (1 Cor 11:23)

Representing the death of Jesus for our sin, and the sustenance for our life – *Do this* [he said] *in remembrance of me*. (Eat)

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood (1 Cor 11:25). This cup and what it contains, is symbolic of God's promise of salvation, the New Covenant, and the blood of Jesus that guarantees it.

Do this [he said], *as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."* (Drink)

Close – *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.* (John 19:30)