

Suffering Savior

April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

God never promised to shield us from suffering.

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world." John 16:33 (CSB)

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15 (CSB)

We have a sympathetic savior because He suffered.

How did Jesus Respond While He Suffered?

"³⁶Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He told the disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'³⁷Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸He said to them, 'I am deeply grieved to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with me.'³⁹Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me.'" Matthew 26:36-39 (CSB)

#1 - Jesus got real with God.

In Jesus's darkest hour, He drew near to the heart of the Father.

Prayer becomes vibrant when we become real.

Prayer is not our last resort, it is our first line of defense.

"⁴⁰Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping. He asked Peter, 'So, couldn't you stay awake with me one hour?' ⁴¹Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.'" Matthew 26:40-41 (CSB)

#2 - Jesus didn't let temptation take Him.

We are more susceptible to sin when we suffer because the flesh is weak and Satan knows when we're weary.

"³⁹Going a little farther, He fell facedown and prayed, 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.' ... ⁴²Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, 'My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.'" Matthew 26:39,42 (CSB)

#3 - Jesus voluntarily submitted Himself to the sovereign will of His Father.

We can't just submit to God in our wins, we must learn to submit to Him in our wilderness.

I would rather suffer in the dangerous will of God than suffer in the dark world all alone.

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#4 - Jesus surrounded Himself with and shared His heart with His closest friends.

In our suffering, our savior is sufficient to strengthen us.

Our response while suffering:

- 1. Get real and pray**
- 2. Trust the spirit, not the flesh**
- 3. Submit yourself to God’s will**
- 4. Surround yourself with your closest friends**