

Enduring the Cross Matthew 26:51-54

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

The day Jesus went to the cross must have been the _____ day of His life. Tough times come to us all, and doing the _____ of God can sometimes be most difficult. Jesus certainly endured the harshest _____ at the cross. God's Word teaches us how to _____ in good times and bad. It gives us hope and promise that helps us sustain our _____ when the dark days come. This is why we need the Lord's _____ to help us. This is why we go to God's Word.

I've often wondered how Jesus was able to _____ all the struggle, humiliation, pain, and shame of his last hours before his death. Jesus had amazing _____; that is, the "ability to endure under pressure." He was _____ of His suffering and death that would happen at Jerusalem. He knew at Gethsemane of all the things that would take place hours later. He knew that Judas would _____ Him; He knew Peter would _____ him three times; He knew His disciples would _____; He knew He would face mockery, trials, beatings, blasphemies, scourging, crucifixion, and death. He heard the crowd call for Barrabas to be released, and the cry "away with Him!" He saw Pilate wash his hands and declare Himself _____. Jesus felt the crown of thorns upon his head, the whip on His body, the weight of the cross upon his bloodied back, the nails through His hands and feet, and the torment of the crowds at his crucifixion.

Jesus could have _____ it at any time, but He never did! He willingly suffered the worst men could do to Him and didn't even _____ about it. I marvel at His love, His strength, and His willingness to do the will of His Father for you and me.

Our reading today comes from The Gospel of Matthew 26:51-54. Jesus has just finished _____ at the Garden of Gethsemane and the people had come to arrest Him. Jesus said His suffering and crucifixion _____ happen. The Old Testament Scriptures prophesied it. Jesus Himself prophesied His suffering and death. For Jesus the cross was necessary. **Read Matthew 16:21-23.** The death of Jesus was God's will! God _____ for it to happen. Peter told the Jews, "this *Man* (Jesus) delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you _____ to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death" (Acts 2:23).

When I consider all that Jesus willingly suffered and endured, I marvel from a human standpoint how He managed to remain _____ through His suffering in the trials and on the cross. Never once did He give _____ or give _____. What were these inner sources of Jesus' _____? Where did he get the courage and the fortitude? Where did His power to

_____ come from? How did He have the self-discipline to do what He must and remain on the cross? If we can understand his sources of power and if those sources are available to us, perhaps we can _____ the battle of faithfulness in our own struggles.

I want to suggest three non-miraculous _____ that Jesus had and that you and I can have. First, He drew assurance from the fact that He was not _____. The Lord Jesus said, “Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the _____ is with Me” (John 16:32). Throughout His suffering, Jesus was doing the will of the Father, and the Father was with Him. He could say, “And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are _____ to Him” (John 8:29). The Lord Jesus faithfully did the Father’s will even in bearing the guilt and punishment for the _____ of the world.

Peter describes what Jesus did on the cross and how we should act when we suffer unjustly. **Read 1 Peter 2:21-24.** Jesus did not spew out hateful words or threaten those who reviled and abused Him. This goes against the angry _____ response of wanting to strike back and curse them. Rather than getting _____, Jesus endured by continually “entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously.”

Jesus began and ended His time of suffering and the cross with _____. He handed His _____ over to the Father. When he was sorrowed and troubled to the point of death at Gethsemane, Jesus prayed, “Father, if Thou art willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42). Oh, He wept loudly and He prayed fervently and ultimately determined to do the will of God. Pray when you face trouble.

As they were crucifying Him with nails through His hands and feet, Jesus was praying, “Father, _____ them, for they know not what they do.” The verb here suggests that He said this more than once. He was thinking about those who were ignorantly causing His suffering and death, both the Jews who insisted and the Romans who acted. This prayer is answered by offering His _____, which was shed for the forgiveness of sins.

Then, about the ninth hour, close to His death, the Lord cried out, “My God, My God, why have you _____ me?” (Matthew 27:46). This was indeed a _____ of pain and suffering. The sun had darkened. I don’t believe it was an _____ that Jesus said this at this point. Jesus actually was _____ David in Psalm 22:1. Psalm 22 is the most Messianic of all the psalms. I would urge you to read the whole psalm. David at the end of this psalm in verses 25-31 _____ the Lord and declares His righteousness. Jesus could see the will of God being done in the cross.

Just before He died, the Lord Jesus declares, “Father, into your hands, I commit my _____” (Luke 23:46). Jesus died committing His spirit to the Father! He remained the Father’s Son and fully _____ to His will. When we suffer, we can do the same thing. First Peter 4:19 says, “Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their _____ to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.”

The second way that Jesus was able to endure His consuming passion for His _____. Jesus came into this world to _____ men from their sins. He said, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was _____” (Luke 19:10). Later, the Lord said, “whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a _____ for many” (Matthew 20:27-28). Paul said, “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to _____ sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15).

While He was on the cross, Jesus showed His _____ for people. He prayed that the Father would _____ those who were crucifying Him. The Lord Jesus was also _____ to the thief on the cross. The thief said “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” The Lord responded in Luke 23:43, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in _____.” While innocently hanging on the cross, Jesus cared enough about this true sinner to _____ to see Him in Paradise. Jesus came to save!

Today, under the new covenant, Jesus saves sinners when they respond to the _____ message in love, faith, repentance, and baptism. Peter said to guilty souls at Pentecost, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your _____; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Don’t seek to be saved like the thief on the cross. The old covenant has passed; our salvation is in the _____ of Christ shed in the new covenant. So, respond to the gospel.

I wonder sometimes if Jesus on the cross could see the multitudes of people who would _____ Him. Jesus died for people in every generation. Hebrews 12:1-2 says, “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the _____ set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” I’ve often thought about what joy was set before Him. The joy of people who would come to _____ and _____ Him! The joy of sinners repenting and serving Him! The joy of _____ with His loved ones! We too can keep the joy of heaven in our hearts to strengthen us and keep us faithful!

Third, Jesus demonstrated His undying, unfailing, and stubborn _____ for His Father and for us. John 13:1 says, “Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should _____ out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.” Jesus never _____ loving the Father who sent Him to the cross. Nor did Jesus _____ loving the people whose sins He bore!

It almost seemed Jesus challenged the Jews to do your _____ to me, and I will still love you. To His disciples He could say, “Scatter, deny me, or betray me, and I will still love you!” Jesus loved the very people who crucified Him and hurled abuse at him. He prayed for them, “Father, _____ them, for they know not what they do.” When Peter preached on the

Day of Pentecost about His death and resurrection, the people were pierced to the _____; yet the Lord in His love still offered them forgiveness of sins! First Corinthians 13:7-8 says, love “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never _____.” The love of Jesus never failed. He never gave up on us. Love means doing what is _____ for others at all costs—and that’s what Jesus did for you and me.

Jesus took you from where you were in sin and by His blood brought you _____ to God. **Read Ephesians 2:1-5.** Jesus loved you enough to bring you out of death to life, out of sin to righteousness, and out of wrath to the blessing of eternal life.

Even to this day, Jesus is interceding for you with the Father. As Christians we _____ sin. We wished we didn’t but we still fall short. We still need the blood of Christ to _____ us. First John 1:8-9 says to Christians who have already obeyed the gospel in faith and baptism, “If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the _____ is not in us. If we _____ our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” You, as a Christian, may have wandered away. Did you know that you can come home? The Lord Jesus still loves you and He’ll forgive you and He’ll cleanse you, if you’ll _____ to Him. Don’t wait! Don’t put off coming back home. Come home to the Lord today! Do what is right. Love Him and serve Him. Don’t let anything else keep you from coming back to Him. Put away those sins and love the Lord with all your heart.

The suffering of innocent Jesus bearing our sins reaches into our _____. He endured suffering because He _____ us to the depth of His being. He loved us when we were helpless, ungodly, sinners, and _____. He endured suffering for the people who didn’t know or care because He wanted them to be _____ and know the truth. He endured suffering to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18). He endured suffering to transform our lives, so that we might _____ sin and embrace righteousness.

How do you respond to the _____? Does the love of Christ mean anything to you? It should matter. Our _____ to His love is to love Him. First John 4:19 says, “We love, because He _____ loved us.” Love for Him will motivate us to leave what _____ for what blesses, to leave sin for righteousness. Second Corinthians 5:14-15 says, “For the love of Christ _____ us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.” To live for the Lord means we die to _____. Paul said, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by _____ in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Won’t you become a Christian? Love and believe in the Lord Jesus. Repent, and turn away from sins that destroy. Confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and be baptized (that is, immersed in water) in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. When you do, God will forgive you and make you His child!