

CREDO

- "I Believe" -

The Christian Faith in a Faithless World

Part 8

"Look to Christ Who Condescended"

15 March 2020

Introduction: The Origin of Our Suffering

"suffering" — The state of undergoing pain, distress, or hardship. Biblically speaking, suffering is the personal experience of that which is wrong with the world.

- Although our specific sins may or may not be the reason for our suffering, Scripture explains to us that human sin is the reason for human suffering in general.

- (1) *We suffer because of our sin and the sin of others (Gen. 3:12)*
- (2) *We suffer because of conflict with the unbelieving world (Gen. 3:15)*
- (3) *We suffer because of physical and emotional pain (Gen. 3:16-17)*
- (4) *We suffer because of harsh reality of death (Gen. 3:19)*

"When we suffer, there will sometimes be mystery. Will there also be faith? Yes, if our attention is focused more on the cross, and on the God of the cross, than on the suffering itself...The God on whom we rely knows what suffering is all about- not merely in the way that God knows everything, but by experience." —D.A. Carson, *How Long O Lord*

Key Point: During His incarnation, the Lord Jesus suffered _____ us, experiencing the general hardships of life (thereby qualifying Him to serve as our merciful and faithful High Priest) before suffering _____ us as the acceptable sacrifice for our sin (thereby qualifying Him to be our Mediator).

The Work of the Son

"The sufferings of [Jesus Christ's] whole life, particularly those of his last days, embraced the full range of human misery—physical and emotive, personal and interpersonal, inward and outward." — Thomas C. Oden, *Classic Christianity*

His Suffering

- We believe that Jesus Christ experienced the suffering that is *common* to all who live in a fallen world.

⇒ *Jesus experienced bodily _____.*

Mark 4:37-38a—³⁷ And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling.
³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion.

John 4:4-6—⁴ And he had to pass through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well.

⇒ *Jesus experienced _____ and _____.*

Luke 4:2—for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing... And when they were ended, he was hungry.

John 19:28—After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

⇒ *Jesus experienced _____ and _____ anguish.*

John 11:33, 35—³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled...³⁵ Jesus wept.

Mark 14:34—And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

⇒ *Jesus experienced _____ conflict.*

John 7:2-3,5—² Now the Jews' Feast of Booths was at hand. ³ So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing." ...⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.

Key Point: Jesus' incarnation means that He chose to _____ with us in our suffering.

- We believe that the suffering that Jesus Christ experienced was *unique* because of who He was as the God-man.

⇒ *Jesus' suffering was distinct from ours because it was always the result of _____ factors because He did not possess a sinful nature as we do.*

Heb. 7:26— For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens

1 Pet. 2:22—He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED
I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY
MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH;
AND IN JESUS CHRIST
HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD,
WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,
BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY,
SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE,
WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED & WAS BURIED,
HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD,
ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN
FROM THE DEAD
HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN,
AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE
FATHER ALMIGHTY;
FROM THERE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE
THE LIVING AND THE DEAD.
I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT;
THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH;
THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS;
THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS;
THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY,
AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING.
AMEN.

⇒ **Jesus' suffering was distinct from ours because of the magnitude of His _____.**

Phil. 2:5-8—⁵ *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Vital Theological Truths

1. The pre-incarnate Son had eternal glory with the Father and was _____ by His form to be who He truly was.
“though he was in the form (morphē) of God”

2. The Son did not insist that He be fully _____ by all that He would encounter during His incarnation.
“did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped (harpagmos)”

3. The Son made Himself nothing by _____ human nature to His Person.
“but emptied (kenōō) himself”

“taking the form of a servant”

“being born in the likeness of men”

“becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”

Key Point: Becoming incarnate meant the _____ of Jesus' true glory in order that He might come to die in the place of the very sinners who did not recognize Him and who actively considered Him to be disgraced and accursed.

“Every moment in that journey from Bethlehem to Calvary was chosen...Every day of the Lord's life he re-enacted the [emptying of Himself], renewing the decision which had made Him nothing and choosing to move further and further into the shame and pain involved.”
— Donald Macleod, *The Person of Christ*

Concluding Thoughts

1. **Jesus returned to the glory of the Father by going _____ suffering, in order that He might bring us with Him into that glory.**

Heb. 2:10-18—¹⁰ *For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,*

2. **Jesus shared our physical frailty in order that He might die and thereby _____ death on our behalf.**

Heb. 2:14-15—¹⁴ *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

3. **Jesus ministers to us as our _____ and ministers for us on our behalf as our _____.**

Heb. 2:16-18—¹⁶ *For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.*