A DEMONSTRATION OF SUFFERING

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**TEXT: John 18:1-12**

**INTRODUCTION**

Of all the challenges that You and I face, perhaps the most difficult to understand is Suffering

How can a loving God allow Suffering? (No one likes to suffer)

For those who have endured any amount of Suffering, this is more than a philosophical issue,

… But rather, a deep-seated personal and emotional one

How does the Bible address this issue?

The Bible is replete with examples of Suffering and Indicators on how to deal with it

I believe here in John’s Gospel we can get some answers

Our study of John's Gospel is swiftly reaching its conclusion

As we approach the end of this book …

We are also approaching the end of our Lord's time on earth

In this 18th chapter of John, we are presented with a Suffering Christ

At this point, He’s been Betrayed, Arrested and He is being Falsely Accused before His enemies

Yet, through it all, He manifests a strength of character that paints a wonderful picture for you and I

In these verses, we are shown a Demonstration of Suffering

You see, when it came time for Jesus to fulfill His Destiny and go to the cross, we don’t find Him shrinking from the task

On the contrary, we find Him standing tall and carrying out the redemptive plan of His heavenly Father without flinching or failing

**Isaiah 50:6** says this …

***“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”***

Even the Gospel writers were moved by His Determination,

**Luke 9:51 – *“And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,”***

All of this leads us to see that Jesus was no shrinking violet

He was no victim of circumstance - No!

Instead, He was the Master of the Moment

And as we go through these verses, I hope that we will see that Jesus Suffered …

… Humiliation, Betrayal and eventually Death with a Goal in mind

This morning, I would like to take a moment and look together at Jesus - The Model Sufferer

My aim is to show What He suffered For and Why He did What He did

My desire is to help us see that Jesus has made a way for someone to be saved

And that He has done everything that’s necessary to help us through the Difficult times of Suffering

Therefore, He’s worthy of our trust this morning

So, let’s pray and then look into these verses and …

**“Jesus’ Demonstration of Suffering”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, we see Him in …

**I. HIS “DEITY” – vs. 1-11**

Throughout His ministry, Jesus has claimed to be God

For Example, …

In **John 8:58 – *“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am”***

In **John 10:30 – *“I and my Father are one”***

And if you are familiar with these verses, you know that each time … they took up stones to kill Him

Several times in this chapter, Jesus will prove His Deity

Let’s look at those proofs here

**A. His ‘Claim’ – vs. 4-7**

**1.** When the religious Leaders come to arrest Jesus,

Jesus asks (end **v. 4**) – ***“Whom seek ye?”***

They respond by saying, ***“Jesus of Nazareth”***

Look at **v. 5 – *“Jesus saith unto them, I am He”***

This exclamation from Christ was a Claim of Deity!

By saying ***“I AM”*** He was again Claiming to be God

**2.** Notice what happens next in **v. 6**

***“As soon then as He had said unto them, I am He, they went backward, and fell to the ground”***

(Contrary to popular belief today)

Being throw backward is not good, but rather a form of Judgment

**v. 3** tells us that there was a ***“band of men”***

That’s talking about a very large group

I don't know about the rest of you, but if I had been in that group,

I would have had second thoughts about trying to arrest this fellow!

**3.** And Not to forget to mention

That the narrative begins with this statement in **v. 4**

***“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon Him”***

These are only a few of the Many ClaimsJesus made that He is the Son of God

 **His ‘Claim’**

**B. His ‘Concern’ – vs. 8, 9**

The Deity of Jesus is also seen in His Concern for His Disciples

He’s Concerned for their Safety

You see, Jesus was Concerned with the protection of His men

They were special to Him and He was determined to protect them

You ask, how does that demonstrate His Deity?

By the simple fact that He cared more for their welfare than He did for His own!

In this, we don’t see the selfishness that would have been manifested by most people

He shows a self-sacrificing love that defies description

Only God is able to love to that degree!

Might I remind you that things haven’t changed?

Jesus is still Concerned about our needs this morning

And His Concern translates into action on our behalf

After all, God has promised to take care of our needs

**Philippians 4:19 – *“But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”***

**His ‘Concern’**

**C. His ‘Compassion’ – vs. 10**

When they come to take Jesus away, Peter draws his sword and cuts off the ear of a man named Malchus

I don’t think for one-minute that Peter was trying to wound Malchus

When this happened, Jesus reached out to Malchus and restored his ear,

**Luke 22:51 – *“And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And He touched his ear, and healed him”***

Folks, only God does something like that!

**His ‘Compassion’**

**D. His ‘Commission’ – v. 11**

***“Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which My Father hath given Me, shall I not drink it?”***

A final proof of His Deity is seen in the fact that He was Determined to go to the cross!

Had this been you or I, we would have been looking for a way out

We would have been looking for some way of escape

We would have tried to cut a deal, But Not Jesus!

**Luke 9:51 – *“And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He stedfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,”*** (**Isa. 50:7**)

Jesus Demonstrated as the Son of God that He was willing to Suffer for you and I

**HIS “DEITY”**

Then, we see Him in …

**II. HIS “DIGNITY” – vs. 12-36**

Even as Jesus was being led away to an illegal trial on trumped up charges, He retains His **Dignity**

He doesn’t beg for Mercy

He never claims His Innocents

Not once does He ask to be set Free

He was **Dignified** at all times

(*showing a composed or serious manner that is worthy of respect*)

That may not mean much to you, but it speaks volumes to me!

It shows He was in total Control of the Situation

And at No point is He caught off guard

He knew what was happening, and He faced it Bravely

**A. His ‘Arrest’ – vs. 12, 13**

They … ***“took Jesus, and bound Him,” “And led Him away …”***

When the men came to take Jesus away, He did not Resist and He did not Retaliate

Understand, that at any moment Jesus could have destroyed His captors with one word …

**Matthew 26:53 – *“Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He shall presently give Me more than twelve legions of angels?”***

Yet, He allowed it, because He loves us!

**His ‘Arrest’**

**B. His ‘Arraignment’ – vs. 19-24; 28-36**

They brought Jesus before the Sanhedrin to answer for His (so-called) criminal charges

After Jesus was Arrested, He was forced to appear before Caiaphas, the High Priest, then later He was tried by Pilate and Herod

During His trial, Jesus was subjected to many injustices

In fact, there are several reasons why His trial was a sham

**1.** It was illegal to make an arrest at night

**2.** Christ was not permitted a defense

Under Jewish law, an exhaustive search into the facts presented by the witnesses should have occurred

**3.** They pronounced Him guilty without real evidence

**4.** The Sanhedrin was without authority to instigate charges

It only had investigative power

In Jesus' trial, the court itself formulated the charges

**5.** The charges against Jesus were changed during the trial

He was initially charged with blasphemy based upon His statement that He would be able to destroy and rebuild the Temple of God within three days, as well as His claim to be the Son of God

But when He was brought before Pilate, the charge was that Jesus was a King and did not advocate paying taxes to the Romans

**6.** The requirement of two witnesses in agreement to merit the death penalty was not met

**7.** The court did not meet in the regular meeting place of the Sanhedrin, as required by Jewish law

Through all the injustice and through all the lies and deception, Jesus retained His Dignity

He stood, the Creator before the creature and took every blow that came His way

**His ‘Arraignment’**

**C. His ‘Alienation’ – vs. 2, 3; 15-18; 25-27; 38-40**

Perhaps the hardest part of the whole process for Jesus was the utter and bitter rejection by the very people He Loved

In this chapter, we find Jesus Suffering at the hands of friend and enemy alike

Notice those who turned on Him in these verses

**1.** He was Betrayed by Judas – **vs. 2, 3**

And he did it with a kiss!

**2.** Peter Denied Him – **vs. 15-18; 25-27**

The very man who swore that all others might leave Jesus, but that he would stay by Him to the death

Was the very one who denied Jesus publicly

**3.** He was Rejected by His Nation – **vs. 38-40**

When Jesus came to earth, He came in fulfillment of all the Jewish prophecies concerning the Messiah

He came to establish the Kingdom of God and to liberate the People of God

Yet, when He came, they refused to have Him and demanded that He be put to death

This had to be the ultimate in Suffering

Therefore, while Suffering, …

… we still find our Saviour facing it with **Dignity**

**HIS “DEITY”**

**HIS “DIGNITY”**

Lastly, we see Him in …

**III. HIS “DESTINY” – v. 37**

***“Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art Thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice”***

In **v. 37** we see Jesus brought before Pilate

Yet Pilate seems like a court jester in the presence of the King of Kings

Jesus makes it clear to Pilate that He came into the world, not to live, but to die!

Jesus had His sights set on 3 Majestic Peaks

Jesus knew something that Pilate would never realize

Jesus was looking ahead to what would be accomplished by seeing this thing through to its conclusion

Notice with me what they are …

**A. The ‘Cross’**

The first Great Peak is the Cross

There had to be a Cross!

Jesus plainly states that His purpose in coming into the world was to go to the cross and die

***“for this cause”***

Unfortunately, for many, this *causes* confusion

They fail to understand that it takes blood to deal with sin,

**Hebrews 9:22 – *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission”*** (of sin)

If Jesus had not shed His Perfect Blood on the Cross, then nobody could be saved, ever!

Salvation is totally dependent upon the Blood of Jesus

Therefore, people ought to beware …

-- Religion teaches that Works get you to heaven

-- Some are trusting in the waters of baptism

-- Others are counting on being good to get the job done

-- Some look to their church affiliation to get them into heaven

As for me, I'm claiming the blood of Jesus

*“My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness!”*

*“What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!”*

Jesus Suffered and Bleed and died for Our sin on …

**The ‘Cross’**

The second Great Peak is …

**B. The ‘Crown’**

There had to be a Crown

Pilate asks Jesus if He is a King

***“Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art Thou a King then?”***

***“Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth”***

Jesus states that He was to ***"bear witness to the truth”***

He bore witness to the truths of His claims …

… When three days after His death, He rose from the dead

And not only is He our King, but also our High Priest

And thank God, He forever lives to make intercession for you and I

**Hebrews 7:25 – *“Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them”***

You see, a dead Saviour could have paid for sin, but as our King and High Priest …

Jesus had to get up from the grave and place the sacrifice before the Father in Heaven

I serve a risen Saviour!

How about you?

Jesus Suffered that we might have a King & High Priest

**The ‘Crown’**

Then, the Last Great Peak is …

**C. The ‘Call’**

Notice that Jesus said that those who were of the truth would hear His voice!

End of **v. 37** says – ***“Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice”***

As men walk through Life, God calls out to them through His Spirit

Those that hear His voice, respond to Him and will be forever saved by grace!

However, before the call could be given, the Saviour had to die and rise again from the dead

This, my friends, is the Gospel!

That Jesus died for sin, rose from the dead and calls all men to come unto Him

**John 12:32 – *“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me”***

If you will come unto Him, you can be saved right now!

If Jesus hadn’t Suffered and Bleed and Died there would be No **Call**

**CONCLUSION**

I wonder if you can understand this morning the truth that what Jesus did, He did for you?

I wonder if it makes sense to you today?

Perhaps you have heard this story many times before, and you have never done anything about it

Maybe this morning, you sense Him calling you to come to Him

Why not do that?

If you have never been saved, let me remind you that Jesus loves you and has made a way for you to be born again and be liberated from sin, judgment and Hell

That Way is none other than Jesus Himself

Won't you come to Him while He calls for you?

 Dear friend, please don’t make the same mistake billions have already made

Trust Jesus, today, while there is still time and be sure that you will miss Hell when you leave this world

To be saved is simple!

All one must do is trust Jesus and His finished work on the cross

When we do that, we are saved eternally!

Jesus perfectly Demonstrated how to Suffer!

And He did it All for us

**HIS “DEITY”**

**HIS “DIGNITY”**

**HIS “DESTINY”**