

Christ suffering, Christ loving and Creation Identifying

1 Christ Suffering

~ Christ's sufferings show us the degree/length to which Christ was willing to go to show he loves us and what he was willing to do to accomplish redemption

His suffering was physical

- Is 53
- Christ was abused physically in Mark
 - He's beaten (v16)
 - Clothed in purple (v17)
 - Crowned with a crown of thorns (v17)
 - Given a mock salute (v18)
 - Hit (v19)
 - Spit on (v19)
 - Mockingly worshipped as the Roman soldiers bow their knee (v19)
 - The robe of purple was pulled off him and no doubt it ripped into beaten skin (v20)
 - Crucified (v20)

His suffering was that of abandonment

- Is 53:3,4
- There's no record of the all the 11 disciples being present at the cross. John was there but where was the other 10?
- Christ was mocked in Mark 15:21-32
 - Christ is mocked by the gambling (v24)
 - Christ is mocked by the inscription (v27) fulfills Is 53:12
 - Christ is mocked by the by-passers (v29-30)
 - Christ is mocked by the religious leaders (v31,32)
 - Christ is mocked by the criminals (v32)
- The Father abandoned him – because our sins were placed on Christ. He was abandoned for us so we wouldn't be abandoned

His suffering was emotional

- As a man he felt the pain of physical abuse, betrayal by people and the Father
- Though he was God he did have the capacity for emotion – He wept in John 11, He was angered at the secularization of the temple (Jn 2 & Matt 21). We cannot dismiss the thought that even here on the cross he was divorced from emotion
- Jesus wasn't a robot with no emotion but felt the demands on him

~ While he suffered greatly it wasn't his sufferings that killed him. His sufferings attributed to his death his life wasn't taken by his accusers, those who beat him, those who crucified him and by the nails and crown of thorns.

~ Christ chose to give up his life. He said I lay it down and that he also had power to take it back up again

~ Sometimes the crucified victims would hang for weeks on the cross – but Jesus released his life because he was laying it down

~Jn 10:17,18 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

~ Though he suffered his death was a victory

~ Notice how when Christ suffered he never lost consciousness or never really weakened. Usually the victims weakened and many times the crucifixions took days to kill a victim

~ But with Christ he seemed to have the same strength throughout his time on the cross

~ He loved people (his mother and John), the thief who repented, He would cry out, "I thirst, and it is finished."

~ Even in his dying breaths it says he breathed out his last

~ Matt 27:50; Lk 23:46 when Jesus cried out with a loud voice he gave up his spirit

- ~ His strength seemed to remain until redemption was accomplished
- ~ Redemption took his life not a Roman crucifixion
- ~ While he suffered his suffering was a victorious one
- ~ Track the personal pronouns used for Christ in Luke 22,23 and it will track the events of Christ and all that he went through. It shows us his sufferings
- ~ Christ's suffering was physical, from people, abandonment from people and the God
- ~ Yet he was committed to paying the price necessary to accomplish redemption
- ~ He was beat so that he wasn't able to carry the cross beam for the cross to Golgotha
- ~ He was so weak and tempted Luke says its as if he sweat blood
- ~ He was so weak the Father had to send an angel to strengthen him in the garden of Gethsemane

2 Christ Loving

- ~ You ever notice how when you feel sick and really bad it's hard to focus on anyone else but yourself? Well, on the cross Christ focused on others
- ~ In his ministry he loved the unlovely and it's no different on the cross
- ~ On the cross we see Christ loving people, ministering to people and caring for people
- ~ He loved people from the cross by praying for the Father to forgive them (Lk 23:34)
- ~ He loved his mother and arranged for her to be taken care of (Jn 19:25-27)
- ~ He loved his disciple John
- ~ He forgave the thief (Lk 23:43)
- ~ Yet love constrained him to fulfill his mission because our eternities were hanging in the balance
- ~ In his death he loved

3 Creation Identifies

- ~ In his triumphal entry Jesus said if the people should stop praising him then the stones would cry out
- ~ Sun darkened for three hours (Matt 27:45; Mk 15:33; Lk 23:43,44). All the synoptic gospels tell us this
- ~ Rocks and the earth shook (Matt 27:51)
- ~ Graves opened after Christ arose (Matt 27:52,53)
- ~ The veil was torn from top to bottom (Matt 27:51; Mk 15:38; Lk 23:45)

Conclusion

- ~ Christ chose to suffer because he loved creation
- ~ *1 Jn 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*
- ~ Jesus died so victoriously that creation identified with him, the thief and the Roman centurion
- ~ Creation identified with a suffering savior more than men who were created in the image of God

If you're a Christian

- ~ Because of Christ's suffering he's qualified to be a sympathetic high priest (Heb 4:12-16)
- ~ Christ has so demonstrated his love that I want to honor him with my life
- ~ When a person does something nice for us it generally causes us to want to return the favor
- ~ If he gave his all for me then I can choose to live for him

If you're not a Christian

- ~ A rough tough Roman soldier believed on Christ
- ~ A criminal hanging on the cross next to Jesus also believed on Christ
- ~ These are men from two different walks of life and both believed
- ~ Will you believe on Christ for salvation?