

**Date:** 03.05.2020

**Time:** 6pm

**Service taken by:** Rev Gavino Fioretti

**Psalm:** Psalm 65:1-5 (Scottish Psalter)

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:32-56

**Outline:**

- a) Introduction
  - 1. Growing sufferings
  - 2. Comprehensive sufferings
  - 3. Saving sufferings
  - 4. Challenging sufferings

## **Matthew 27:33**

- **Introduction**

This is the third of the three places we've been looking at: Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha. Tonight we look at Golgotha, the place where Jesus was crucified.

**Human depravity:** This is the darkest house in the history of man where the King of Glory is put to death. This is not just an unfair treatment; this is the rejection of God. We see man at His worst. Man is not just failing, but trying to kill God.

**Divine sovereignty:** Despite all of this depravity and horror, this happened according to the foreknowledge of God, exactly as God wanted it to happen. This was as planned. There was no other way as this was God's appointed way. In His divine sovereignty God uses the wickedness of man for His purpose. It was God's will for the Son to suffer. Jesus' suffering is different from all other suffering, so different from the two criminals on crosses beside Him. Jesus' suffering was a special kind of suffering.

### **1) Growing sufferings**

Jesus was surrounded by sin in the world, yet He never sinned. As Jesus grew in knowledge on earth, He understood more of what was involved in our salvation. Jesus knew that the day would come when He would have to suffer and be mocked. In Gethsemane, Jesus was confronted with what He would have to pay for our sins. Gethsemane was a shadow of Calvary. This shadow was becoming a reality. Golgotha shows us the deepest part of Jesus' suffering and humiliation.

## 2) Comprehensive sufferings

**Physical:** Jesus' physical suffering was terrible, extreme suffering. He refused the wine mixed with gall which was a painkiller at the time. He needed to be alert for the spiritual battle He was in. That happens on the body impacts on the mind and the emotions.

**Emotional:** Judas betrayed Him, Peter denied Him, and Thomas would doubt Him. Almost all of His friends had left Him. He had no friends, no comfort. Those He came to save despised and mocked Him.

**Spiritual:** Jesus' suffering was spiritual. He was tempted by the devil. The devil didn't want Jesus to die on the cross and tempted Him to let Himself down from the cross.

Jesus experienced God's wrath on the cross. We cannot really grasp what that means and we ask "how can God forsake God?" and "in what way was He forsaken?" We know that He experienced separation from God. No mercy was granted. He experienced Hell in His body and soul. He experienced what those in Hell go through, yet His experience was different because Jesus had done no wrong.

**Covenantal:** Jesus suffered what was agreed for Him to suffer, when the trinity agreed the salvation of the chosen in covenantal grace. Jesus experienced what was agreed in the trinity – He had to experience all that was required and demanded by God. He experienced eternal death. Jesus' separation from the Father was short, but more painful than we can imagine.

## 3) Saving sufferings

**Standing in our place:** Jesus suffered. He took our place. He became man to take the place of man. He took the condemnation and the guilt that we deserve. He was covered in our sin, so God the Father could show no mercy. He took the punishment for our sin.

**Bearing our sins:** The scapegoat in the Old Testament took the place of the people. Jesus became not just a sin offering, He became sin.

**Fulfilling our duty:** Jesus fulfilled our duty and did what we could not do ourselves. We can't live perfectly according to God's will. We can't satisfy the demands of a righteous God, but Jesus did.

**Purchasing our redemption:** To redeem means to be free. Jesus bought our redemption. We're free not to do everything we want. He freed us from spiritual slavery to allow us to live for God. We've been bought to God and brought into the family of God.

**Defeating our enemies:** His suffering has given us victory over the enemies of our souls. The devil lost the battle. Sin and death and the world have been defeated. Our sinful flesh has been defeated.

**Giving life:** As Jesus died, people who had been dead came to life. As He gave His life, people were given life. The suffering of Christ brings so much. We don't perish because Jesus perished. Here in Golgotha John 3:16 is fulfilled.

#### 4) Challenging sufferings

**Our response:** What is our response? Do we respond with thanksgiving? Worship? Devotion? Love? With faith, submission, obedience?

We can feel so cold and unmoved when we consider Christ's suffering, even at Communion time. Softening our hearts is a challenge.

**Our eternity:** Jesus sufferings reveal Hell. Hell is divine abandonment. It is God against you. Praying without hope. Unfairness, physical and emotional suffering without God intervening to give relief. It is being crucified forever.

Jesus' suffering challenges you if you aren't a Christian; you are challenged to see the reality of Hell.

Jesus' suffering challenges us if you are a Christian; we are challenged to be concerned for those about us who don't know Jesus. We need to tell sinners that Christ is the way.

May God soften and transform our hearts by Christ's work.