

Part 3 Called to Suffer and Sacrifice for the Lord

So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Some of the governor's soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment.

They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him.

They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!"

And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it.

When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

Along the way, they came across a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross.

And they went out to a place called Golgotha (which means "Place of the Skull").

The soldiers gave Jesus wine mixed with bitter gall, but when he had tasted it, he refused to drink it.

After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.

Then they sat around and kept guard as he hung there.

A sign was fastened above Jesus' head, announcing the charge against him. It read: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

The people passing by shouted insults, shaking their heads in mockery.

"Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!"

The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus.

"He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him!

He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way.

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah.

One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink.

But the rest said, "Wait! Let's see whether Elijah comes to save him."

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit.

At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The earth shook, rocks split apart, and tombs opened. The bodies of many godly men and women who had died were raised from the dead.

They left the cemetery after Jesus' resurrection, went into the holy city of Jerusalem, and appeared to many people.

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, "This man truly was the Son of God!"

And many women who had come from Galilee with Jesus to care for him were watching from a distance.

Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and Joseph), and the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee.



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God's Universal Calls

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{Called to Personal Relationship}
  [Called to Obey and Follow]
 (Called to Suffer and Sacrifice)
  <Called to Christian Service>
   = Called to Christlikeness =
    { [ ( < = Your Life = > ) ] }
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Part 3 Called to Suffer and Sacrifice for the Lord

Principle #1

God has called every single one of His children, who have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ, to suffer and sacrifice for Him just like Christ did.

Philippians 1:29

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

1 Peter 2:21

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

Luke 14:27

And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple.

Principle #1

God has called every single one of His children, who have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ, to suffer and sacrifice for Him just like Christ did.

Principle #2

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that you will be mistreated, abused, and even rejected by the very people God has called you to help.

Mark 3:20

One time Jesus entered a house, and the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat.

Mark 3:21

When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He did not want to go about in Judea because the Jewish leaders there were looking for a way to kill him.

But when the Jewish Festival of Tabernacles was near,

Jesus' brothers said to him,
"Leave Galilee and go to Judea,
so that your disciples there
may see the works you do.

No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world."

For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

Jesus left that part of the country and returned with his disciples to Nazareth, his hometown.

The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?"

Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.

Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family."

And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Principle #2

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that you will be mistreated, abused, and even rejected by the very people God has called you to help.

Principle #3

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that the enemies of God will go out of their way to kick you while you are already down.

Matthew 26:67-68

Then they began to spit in Jesus' face and beat him with their fists. And some slapped him, jeering, "Prophesy to us, you Messiah! Who hit you that time?"

So Pilate released Barabbas to them. He ordered Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip, then turned him over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

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Principle #4

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that there are times when successfully accomplishing God's mission will require your willing self-sacrifice.

"Put away your sword,"
Jesus told him. "Those who use
the sword will die by the sword.

Matthew 26:53

Don't you realize that I could ask my Father for thousands of angels to protect us, and he would send them instantly?

Matthew 26:54

But if I did, how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that describe what must happen now?"

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that there are times when successfully accomplishing God's mission will require your willing self-sacrifice.

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that dark days, loneliness, and abandonment are issues you will be forced to walk through at one time or another.

Matthew 27:45

At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock.

Matthew 27:46

At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Matthew 27:50

Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit.

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that dark days, loneliness, and abandonment, are issues you will be forced to walk through at one time or another.

When you obey God's call to suffer and sacrifice for Him, know for certain that suffering is a reality of this kind of life, a reality that all of us must learn to master before it masters us.

As faithful followers of Christ, we must learn and we must discipline ourselves to keep our faith, our gaze, and our trust in the Lord at all times knowing that none of our sufferings will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore we do not lose heart.
Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

2 Corinthians 4:17

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Corinthians 4:18

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

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