

WEEK 22:

THE SUFFERING OF JESUS

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE:

Luke 22:39-46

RELATED SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 22 and 75, Isaiah 53, Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42,
John 12:27-28, 1 Peter 2:20-25, Revelation 5:1-10

“The main reason that Christians insist that God can be trusted in the midst of suffering is that ... God himself has firsthand experience of suffering.”

- Dan. G McCartney *Why Does It Have to Hurt?*

“People who suffer want people who have suffered to tell them there is hope. They are justifiably suspicious of people who appear to have lived lives of ease. There is no doubt in my mind that this is the reason that Jesus suffered in every way that we do, while he was here.”

- Stephen Saint

PERSONAL STUDY:

Read Luke 22:39-40. Do you have any routines or places where you like to go to pray? Why is prayer specifically important when we're suffering?

Read Luke 22:41-46. Have you ever been in such agony that you didn't even want anyone to be around – you just needed to be alone in prayer?

What types of suffering does Jesus experience here? How do these foreshadow the deeper sufferings he will experience in the next 24 hours? From what you know about other gods and religions, why is this picture of Jesus' agony unique?

Read John 12:27-28 and Luke 22:42. What is strange about Jesus' request for God to let the cup of His wrath pass?

Read Revelation 5:1-10. In v. 5-6 what are we to understand from Jesus being described as both Lion of Judah and Lamb of God who was slain? According to v. 9-10, why is Jesus worthy to open the scroll?

Read Acts 2:22-24. In v. 23, Peter weaves together three things: 1.) God's sovereign plan to deliver Jesus up, 2.) the Jewish crowd's sinful desire to crucify Him, and 3.) the Roman governing systems and soldiers who worked within them. Did you know God's sovereignty, sinful humans, and sinful systems could coexist? What does that mean for us?

SERMON NOTES:



LIFEGROUP DISCUSSION:

When are you most tempted to believe God owes you a good, easy, comfortable life?



Read Luke 22:39-46. How is Jesus' agony after a perfect life of obedient submission unsettling to many of our modern American assumptions about God and life?

Reread v. 42. When have you been confident of something God wanted you to do and also terrified to obey? How is Jesus' humanity in this moment both hugely comforting and also empowering?



Read Mark 13:9-13. How often do you think about the fact that following Jesus will involve doing things you don't want to do and/or result in things you do not wish to experience?

Pray for our vision to be filled with Jesus' suffering and that it will strengthen us, empower us and encourage us as we live on mission with Him until He returns.

