

WHAT THE LORD PRAYED FOR DURING THE TIME OF SUFFERING

John 17:1-5

INTRODUCTION :

PRAYER REQUESTS!!!

Illustration : One pastor was showing a huge cross they had built in front of the church which was made of very good material and was boasting to the other pastor that he had built at bargain price. The other pastor replied, "It's still too expensive. In our church, the cross is free."

Now we take a look at what He prayed to the Father during that week.

**John 17: 1After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. 2For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 3Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. 5And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.*

BACKGROUND :

- We always see in the Bible that Jesus always isolates Himself to pray to His Father
- But this is the only time before being crucified on the cross that we get to hear what Jesus is praying about

Application: A Christian's relationship to God is known by his/her prayers (praying is having fellowship with God)

In short, your relationship with God grows deeper when you pray WHICH also means when you don't pray, then we should examine our relationship with God.

Example : Recently, we were talking about Tony and Butch's stint in Saudi and how they use to send voice tapes to their loved ones and families. They even sing in their voice tapes. That's how we should pray or even sing to the Lord. It's an expression of our deepest emotions, our deepest love to God.

***Quote :** When it comes to prayer "Depth not length is important." – Chuck Swindoll

What do I mean by this? Using the example again, most of the terms that Tony and Butch uses in their voice tape is "I miss you." Or "I love you." And it's not just words, it's really coming from the deepest part of their hearts. That's how we should pray to God.

WE TELL HIM WHAT'S INSIDE OUR HEARTS!!!!

- Theologians call this the Holy of Holies in the Bible because we are now seeing how the Son is interacting with His Father through prayer

Explain : The Holy of Holies is that part of the temple where God's manifest presence is in the Old Testament. Only the high priest once a year enters to offer sacrifices to God and that high priest must be ceremonially clean...if not, then he suffers the consequence of his uncleanness

When we pray we enter the Holy of Holies...explain the veil in the temple that was torn in two.

Assignment : Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and Hebrews chapters 9 and 10

WHAT SHOULD WE PRAY FOR?? A MODEL OF PRAYER SPECIALLY IN TIMES OF SUFFERING

I. ***OUR LORD ACKNOWLEDGED HIS FATHER'S SOVEREIGNTY**

¹After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come.

Question : What did Jesus say?

Answer : Chapters 14 to 16

IN SUMMARY :

**John 16 : ³³"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

In short, if you read chapters 14 to 16 the Lord was giving them hope for the future and help in the present.

What was the Lord doing? He was encouraging them.

Lesson: Look at this. Here was His pending suffering on the cross and what he's doing is encouraging His disciples.

Application : Even in our pending troubles or even in the midst of suffering, it is still good to think about other people's suffering.

Important: Look at the first 3 words on what He said on the cross. It's still thinking about other people.

1. *Father forgive them, for they know not what they do (Luke 23:34).*
2. *Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).*
3. *Woman, behold your son: behold your mother (John 19:26-27).*

***1. Our Lord acknowledged His Father's position**

...he looked toward heaven and prayed.

Important : This is a good starting point always in prayer : acknowledging that God who is our Father is in control of everything.

Example : One of the most important lessons we can learn is when we ask God "Why?", He can say "Why not?"

Important : Job 38-40 shows God answering Job in such a way that He's not answering Job directly about his question but telling Job that He is sovereign.

We just need to trust in God's character... He is good, loving and holy.

**Jeremiah 29 :¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*

***2. Our Lord accepted His Father's plans**

"Father, the time has come.

Lesson : It's an acknowledgement that what's going to happen (the cross) is according to God's timetable

Remember : Everything that's happening is according to His timetable...His plans

***From His birth :**

Galatians 4:4 When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman...

***To His suffering** which was already prophesied centuries before God became man.

*Isaiah 53 :⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.*

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,

*Psalm 22 :¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.*

*¹⁷ I can count all my bones;
people stare and gloat over me.*

*¹⁸ They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.*

Application : Whatever you are undergoing right now is part of His plan. He was never surprised by it. It is part of His plan.

II. *OUR LORD ASKED FOR THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE HIS FATHER THE GLORY.

**Glorify your Son,*

Lesson : The glory of the Son is the cross. Obviously, Jesus isn't talking about the resurrection here. He is talking about the impending suffering on the cross. You will see later.

...that (hina) your Son may glorify you

Look at the passage again : Jesus Christ was saying now to God.... "let your plan, your will be done so ...*that (hina)(in order) your Son may glorify you*

Very important : We do not ask for suffering but when suffering comes we should not despise it but make it AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOD TO USE IT FOR HIS GLORY!!!

Illustration : Buying a diamond ring, it is placed in a box with dark or velvet cloth...Why? So that the diamond will shine.

Suffering is the dark or velvet cloth that makes the Lord shine in our lives.

***Question :** How does the cross glorify God?

***1. It glorifies the Father because it shows God's tremendous love**

****²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.***

****Matthew 27: ³⁹Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"***

Again, He who said to Pilate that He can call legion of angels to His rescue...why was He willing to go through the cross and stay there until he died? IT WAS FOR US.

***Quote :** It wasn't the nails that kept Him there but His love for us – Anonymous

Illustration : I remember Mica when she was young while I was disciplining her just told me “I don't like you anymore”. Ang sakit pala.

She did not understand that during the time of her “suffering”, I was doing that because I love her. She did not understand the reason behind it.

But remember, even if we don't understand and even if we don't know it...you have to remember that God always acts with a purpose and out of love.

Question : You know how much God loves you?

****John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

Explain : Justice and mercy met at the cross.

***Quote :**

If you want to see the wrath of God on sin, look at the cross.

If you want to see the love of God for sinners, look at the cross.

Question : What is eternal life?

****³Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.***

ETERNAL LIFE IS NOT....

- It is NOT “TIME BASED”... boring yun.
- IT IS LOVE BASED....

Etymology : know “ginosko” it connotes sexual intimacy -

Illustration : If you are with the one you love...if you enjoy their company...time doesn't matter...in fact, “ay ang bilis ng oras” or “ay kulang ang oras” because we are time-based here on earth.

**³Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

Illustration : A Filipino movie's title shows “Kaya Kong Abutin Ang Langit” but the title of God's love for us “Inabot ako ng Langit”

**³Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

Explain : Jesus is the proof of God's love for us.

Plus : Eternal life (INTIMACY WITH GOD) doesn't happen after we die. It happens when we received Jesus Christ.

Etymology : Life – not “bios” but “zoe” - it's a meaningful life.

Illustration : Di ba, ano ang sinusulat natin sa love-letter - you gave meaning to my life.

***2. It brings glory to the Father because of the complete obedience of the Son**

**⁴I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do*

Remember : Obedience means trusting the Father

Illustration : It was said that Alexander the Great was trying to conquer one of the cities and he talked to the king to surrender. The king asked why he would surrender. So Alexander the great ordered the first line of his troops who were near the cliff to march until he says stop and the soldiers didn't stop because Alexander didn't order them to stop and they willingly fell down the cliff. The king saw the “commitment” of the soldiers and saw that he wouldn't defeat this kind of army and so he surrendered.

Note : Don't worry, when He's asking you to do something it comes from His good, pure and holy heart...remember again, His plans is to prosper you and not to harm you.

We have to trust the Lord because He knows what He's doing.

APPLICATION : IN TIMES OF SUFFERING, ONE OF THE THINGS WE SHOULD PRAY FOR IS, FATHER, HOW WILL I GIVE YOU GLORY THROUGH THIS?

III. *OUR LORD ASPIRED FOR HIS FATHER'S INTIMACY

**⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began*

Illustration : What is the biggest enemy of an OFW? Homesickness!!!

**Matthew 26 : ³⁶Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled.*

Etymology : **troubled** “odunao” to be away from home

IMPORTANT : This is the reason why Jesus endured the cross because He was looking at going back to His heavenly Father.

**Hebrews 12 : ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Application : Just like Jesus, we can endure suffering simply because this is the way we get closer to our God. Isn't that true? It is only when we are undergoing trials and sufferings that we hold on to God tighter.

And here's the Good News : God is always depicted in the Psalms, as a strong tower, a safe refuge...that when you are close to Him, you will begin to understand that He is strong and that He will keep you safe.

You can endure the cross because it did not end on Good Friday...but there is Resurrection Sunday. You will come out victorious out of this.

SAY IT WHEN YOU ARE UNDERGOING SUFFERING...

FATHER, I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR SOVEREIGNTY
FATHER, I ASK THAT I WILL GIVE YOU GLORY
FATHER, I ASKED THAT YOU WILL BE WITH ME.

***IT'S ONLY FRIDAY. SUNDAY IS COMING.**

S.G.D.