

How Jesus Endured the Cross

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Introduction: It is very difficult for us to comprehend the love of God.

- A. We read about how Jesus endured the cross. **(Heb 12:1-2)**
 - 1. Have you ever thought about how difficult this was?
 - 2. Let us consider both the pain of the cross but also how Jesus was able to keep His mind upon the Father and His promises.
- B. Jesus' suffering is meant to teach us about our own times of trial. **(Heb 12:3-4)**
 - 1. How many have heroes in sports that inspire them not to quit?
 - 2. Rest assured that on the pathway to becoming an effective servant of God we will be tested!

I. Jesus knew the Father's will and character

- A. Jesus took on flesh and willingly limited the use of His powers. **(Jn 1:14)**
 - 1. He met opposition and difficult circumstances. **(Jn 1:10-11)**
 - 2. Imagine the temptation to show His powers and convince the world who He is?
 - 3. Jesus knew that God's plan was to reach a certain kind of people. Raw worldly power was not how the Father would reach men.
 - 4. Satan played on this by saying "if you are the Son of God." **(Mt 4:6-7)**
- B. Jesus wanted to show us how to have a relationship with the Father!
 - 1. Over and over He declared that the entirety of His teaching and deeds were wholly found in the revealed will of God. **(Jn 8:28-29; Isa 50:5-6)**
 - 2. We know in the garden how he prayed fervently but would always yield to "not as I will, but as you will." **(Mt 26:39)**
 - 3. If you want to have a relationship with the Father please look at the cross!

II. Consider the temptations that the cross brought to Jesus

- A. There was the enormous physical suffering. **(Isa 52:14; 53:3-5)**
 - 1. It was impossible to pass out in crucifixion.
 - 2. The anticipation, the crowd and the pain caused most to lose control.
 - 3. Jesus remained in control and sought to help others!
- B. There was His loved ones looking on in great pain.
 - 1. Simeon told Mary that "a sword would pierce your soul." That time had come. **(Lk 2:34-35)**
 - 2. Imagine being present at this conversation. **(Jn 19:25-27)**
 - 3. Jesus knew that He was giving them eternal life! No turning back!
- C. At any moment He could have come down from the cross. **(Mt 26:53-54)**
 - 1. This is a massive temptation. All it would take was just a moment of weakness.
 - 2. In long distance races or long sprints to the finish there is the temptation to just rest for a moment.

III. Jesus kept thinking about the nature and will of God

- A. Jesus saw that He was forsaken. **(22:1-2)**
 - 1. Jesus was crying out to God in His pain. **(Mt 27:46)**
 - 2. He cried out both in light and darkness. **(Mt 27:45)**
 - 3. Jesus now compared what his physical eyes saw to what He knew about God!
- B. But Jesus knew that God is always true! **(22:3-5)**
 - 1. Because Jesus had so prepared His heart, He could see beyond the physical realm. He knew God's promises. **(1 Pt 2:21-23)**
 - 2. God is "enthroned in the praises of Israel." Why? He is holy!
 - 3. God will always deliver those who trust in Him. There are no exceptions! **(Ps 34:3-5)**
- C. Jesus saw that He was despised. **(22:6-8)**
 - 1. After being beaten and nailed to the cross His appearance was that of a worm.
 - 2. His enemies surrounded Him and shouted insults. **(Mt 27:41-44)**
 - 3. Evil men will try to beat the righteous down with their deeds and their tongues.
- D. Jesus knew that God had always loved Him. **(22:9-11)**
 - 1. God provided for Him from conception! He does so to us as well.
 - 2. Because of this He called out for God's help and was comforted that He will answer! He will always help when there is "none to help."
- E. Jesus saw that His body was wounded and dying. **(22:12-18)**
 - 1. Jesus described in detail the physical effects of a death upon the cross.
 - 2. During His death he heard hatred and scorn from those surrounding Him. The soldiers even gambled for His clothing. **(Mt 27:35-36)**
- F. Jesus knew that God would deliver Him. **(22:19-21)**
 - 1. In spite of everything He could see, He knew that God would respond!
 - 2. Abraham had this kind of faith. **(Rom 4:17-18; Heb 11:18-19)**
 - 3. Will you prepare you mind so you too will believe these things in suffering?

IV. Will we also follow the footsteps of Jesus in suffering?

- A. Being stripped of my "rights" can bring me closer to God.
 - 1. Consider the conclusion of Job. **(Job 42:5-6)**
 - 2. Remember the Hebrew writer's exhortation: "You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin."
- B. More doors to help others are opened in suffering. **(2 Cor 1:3-4)**
 - 1. If our goal is to glorify God and not ourselves then our attitude towards suffering will be like Paul's. **(2 Cor 12:9-10)**
 - 2. Do we really want to be like Jesus?

Conclusion: Let us never take our eyes off the cross of Christ. **(Gal 6:14)**