

April 12

Title: WHY DID CHRIST SUFFER?

TEXT: Hebrews 5:7-10

We are in the book of Hebrews. Hebrews chapter 5 and beginning at Vs 7. This wonderful book is dealing with THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST. In the first seven chapters we are examining the Authority of Jesus and the fact that He is over everything. Nothing is to be compared with him. He is exalted above the Angels which we studied in the first two chapters. And then in chapters 3 and 4 we saw that he was exalted even above the great leader Moses. And over all the house of Israel.

And then beginning at chapter 5 verse 1 we noticed the main subject, the main area where Christ's authority is presented in this book. And that is as HIGH PRIEST. He is over all the Priestly system of the O.T. Christ is our great High Priest. And this is a very important section. It is really what Hebrews is all about. The Priestly and sacrificial work of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Saviour.

(Read 5:7-10)

Prayer

Father, we thank you for this portion of your Word. We thank you for the insight into the very heart and nature of our Lord. For He is our Saviour and High Priest. Continue to ~~empress~~ impress upon us that He is all we need. Lord, we pray, that you will center our attention upon Him, today. And all else will seem so foolish and unimportant in the light of His glory. We thank you for Jesus. And we pray that we will be drawn to him, today. Knowing that He can answer the **needs** of our heart.

Father, I pray for those who have come to worship today who really don't have assurance that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Saviour. Lord, we pray that in these moment together in your Word that they would become convinced that here is one who loves them and died for them and wants to save them. And we thank you, Father, for your power to draw us. And we know that your spirit works in each person, convicting us and drawing us to Jesus....And we pray this in Jesus name....Amen....

In our Hymn book, page 127, there is a song that is quite old. It comes from the past century. It says.....

Tis midnight, and on Olives brow The star is dimmed that lately shone;
Tis midnight, in the garden now The suffering Saviour prays alone.

Tis midnight, and from all removed The Saviour ^{struggles} ~~wrestles~~ one with fears-
Even that disciple whom He loved Heeds not his Master's grief and tears.

Tis midnight, and for other's guilt The Man of Sorrows weeps in blood.
Yet He that hath in anguish knelt Is not forsaken by His God.

Tis midnight, and from ether plains Is borne the song that angels know-
Unheard by mortals are the strains That sweetly soothe the Saviour's woe.

50 PL
Beautifully said.....I almost feel that all of us, as Moses was ask to do,
take off our shoes as we enter Hebrews chapter 5 verse 7 for the place upon
which we stand is Holy ground.

Don Talk,
We are dealing today with the event of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemet.
If you were on a trip to Jersuelm, one of the high lights is visiting the
Garden of Gethsemane. It is just to the East of that beautiful Eastern
wall and the Eastern gate which is ^{Jesus} ~~start~~ up. AND tradition says it will not
be opened until the Messiah comes. And as you go across that little valley,
the brook Kéd tron, and come up the side of the Mt of Olives which is really
not a mount as we know mountains. But it is more like a hill perhaps from
our viewpoint. But, I am told it is a beautiful sitting. And on the top
of that hill there is a little church. The church is built over ~~the~~ place,
supposely, where Jesus knelt in prayer. And in that garden there are a
number of olive trees which date back to the time of our Lord. Now, whether
oh they are the trees that Jesus prayed under is not really known. But they
do give one the idea of what things where like in the time of Jesus when
he went to the garden to pray.

And it was on ~~the~~ the Mt. of Olives that Jesus said: "O Jerselem, O
Jerselem you who killed the prophets, how often would I have gathered you
as a hen gathers her young."

The heart of our Lord was broken on one occassion. The Bible says He
wiped when he looked at Jerselem....

And it is in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus wiped over the sin of
people.....

And it was to the garden that Jesus went with his disciples. And he took three of them over to a more private spot: Peter, James and John. And there he told them to watch ~~us~~ ^{and} we prayed that they would not enter into temptation. It was quite a night if you remember. Because he was going to be betrayed, arrested and tried later that evening. And so as he went off a little ways from them, it was there that he prayed.

And this is the event which is referred to. And I draw your attention back to chapter 4 to understand why ~~the~~ Paul is talking about that event. Because in chapter 4 verse 14 ^{Paul} says: "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed into the heavens". Not simply behind the veil as in the O.T. temple, but ^{into} into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

Suffly

Dear Friends, don't ever lost sight of those three verses. That is why Paul is going into the deep concepts of who christ is and how He loves us and ~~how He is going to minister to us~~ ^{why He Had To suffer for us}. It is based upon those three verses.....That Christ knows what you and I are going through. ~~They~~ sympathy, and compassion and the love that ~~he~~ ^{you} has for us. And ~~Paul~~ ^{Paul} is going to go into some depth about ~~it~~ that right now in chpter 5:7.

But it is also an invitation. Everytime you anything about the symphaitic saviour, it is the invitation of what Vs 16 says. That invites us to come to him again. Because he wants us to come to him. And he knows what we are going through. He understands.....

It is alfull lonely and depressing when you don't feel that anybody understands you. That nobody really cares about you. But here is comfort and encouragement to anybodies heart. No matter how alone you feel. No matter how much your circustances have made you that way. Yet, Jesus loves you....And he is a symapthitic saviour. And Paul is going to great depths to prove to you and to me how much Jesus loves us.....

But

And that He is the only mediator between God and man. He is the only one Jesus said: "I am the way the truth and the life. And no man comes to the Father except by me....."

So, Let get into the passage. It is a very difficult passage.

(90) Acturally what we are talking about in Verse 5 through 10 is a proof that Christ was called as a High Priest. The reason why Paul feels he must prove that is because Christ did not come from the line of Aron. He was from the line of Judah. Which is the line of the King. The tribe of the Priest comes from the line of Aron. And so the Jews would question His authority to be a High Priest. He is not from Aron. Now, Paul is going to tell you that Jesus is from an unusally Priesthood. The order of Melchizedek which we will discuss in chapter 7.

In fact that is how Vs 6 ends. "Thou art a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Then, Vs 7 begins "In the days of His flesh". We are talking about Jesus and His priest hood. And so the proof that we are looking at as to how we know that He is a Priest ^{comes} (is ~~not~~) One, from the Scriptures, Vs 5 and 6; and secondly, from his suffering. Because according to the opening verses of this chapter, the High Priest had to be taken from men. According to Vs 2, he had to have compassion on the ignorant and misguided, since he himself also is beset with weakness."

You see, you share best that which you have experieced. The good High Priest is one who knows what people are suffering and going through and has throse weaknesses. Now, Paul is trying to prove His point about Jesus. That He, also, suffered. And that is what Vs 7 throu 10 is telling us.

~~We are looking at~~ ^{as we consider} the sufferings of Jesus Christ,

~~Now,~~ I would like to divid this up very simplely.....

(10) First of all, in Vs 7 we will examine the results of His supplication before God IN THAT GARDEN.....And I would like you to notice several things....

(10) First of all, as we look at the results of this supplication, I would like you to notice ~~that~~ ^{Jesus in} in the experience of the Garden. ~~For the Bible~~

For the Bible says: "IN the days of His flesh" It is referring to a certain moment of time. Since the High Priest had to be taken from among men, Paul is establishing that there was a point in ^{The life of Jesus} ~~His life~~ in which He experienced exactly what the requirement was for ^{the} High Priest. To suffer.. to know the weakness and sins of men.

So, ^{Paul} emphasizes the experience in the Garden. It was a point in the days of his flesh while ^{Jesus} ~~he~~ was here on earth. And Paul uses the statement: "WHEN HE OFFERED"....~~That is the simple word for the High Priest.~~ The word means "to bring" or "bear towards".....

Back in Vs 1 it says that the High Priest may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins....."OFFERS"....To bring towards the Lord.....

And again ^{Paul} adds words which describe Christ in a High Priestly ministry. Chrst offered what?.....~~He offered~~.....NO.....PRAYERS AND SUPPLICATIONS WITH LOUD CRYING AND TEARS....

mt So, Paul is emphasizing Christ experience in the garden. And this was the requirement of the High Priest in the O.T....That is very important to understand for the rest of these verses.

(2D) The second thing I want you to notice about his ~~offerings~~ ^{suffering} is the extend to which he prayed as a Priest in our behalf in the Garden. How extensive was it? The Bible describes it with four terms. ~~And they are in progression.~~ And also they are in progression. Meaning they are getting more intense. Each word is a stronger word than the one that is preceding it. And it is building up the ~~pr~~ intensity of that moment in the garden when Jesus was praying in our behalf.....Four words...

(1E) ~~First~~ First, the word "prayers.".....The word "Prayers" comes from the root word meaning "Desire"....~~It is a strong word.~~ It is a strong word. It means more than just asking. It is referring to an earnest desire in your heart...a wanting... a longing.....

~~Christ began that way in the Garden. The Bible tells us to pray also in the same way.~~ ^{Now} There are other words for prayer. Such as "to ask".... a request....a worship before God....a praise or a thanksgiving.....

But Paul

All ~~the~~ ~~other~~ words for prayer. Here ~~it~~ begins with the strongest word that we believers use in praying. A wanting, a longing, a desire in our hearts.

(2E) Number two, translated "supplications" in ~~all~~. This word is referring to a urgent request of one who is seeking help or protection.

So, here we see Christ in the Garden praying to such an extent that he is seeking the help and protection of his father.

(3E) The third word in Vs 7 is the phrases "loud crying". Now, the word here is not refering to one who is quitely shedding tears. The word is the loud outbursts of one who is deeply distrubed.

The thing that surprises me in the usage of this word is that the disciples, just a stone throw away, slept through the whole thing. He was not quitely crying. He was shouting....Loud outburst of one who was deeply destrubed in his heart.

I think we play down the anguish of our Lord in the garden. ²¹ The Bible plays it up. And says that is how you know that He is a suffering, ~~sympathit~~ sympathetic saviour in your behalf. He really went through it in the garden. Who of us has sweat as it were drops of blood? Who of us has agonized as the Saviour anonized in the garden?..... *Loud Crying*

Of course the real question is WHY? And I will answer that in a moment.

But, he really went through anguish. And yet, the disciples are ~~at~~ sacking out through the whole thing.

(4E) Number four, the word tears. ...tears...which is the visible, ~~the~~ manifestation of grief...And what a fulfillment of prophecy...Because in the O.T. the Messiah would be a man of sorrows. A man acquainted with grief.

at At the tomb of Lazarus we read in John 11:35 that Jesus wiped....He was more a man of tears than anything else. *He was our* ~~Proving that he is~~ a sympathetic saviour.

He knows our trails...he knows our hurts....And he is able to symapthize with us.....

(3D) Number three, let's look at the example ~~th~~ that he set for us.....The example that he set for us. And there are two things that I have in *mind*.

In Vs 7 it says that He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His peity... Two things I draw to your attention here in his great example.

(1E) One, His confidence in the Father. His confidence in the Father.

Literably it says: "To the one who is continually able to save Him out off death"

Jesus knew when he prayed that the Heavenly Father had power to answer his prayer. There is another fundamental question that many people ask: If Jesus was God, and the Father was God, then how come he was asking the Father to help him? Couldn't he just do it himself?

The answer of course is; absolutely. ~~But~~ Let's take the resurrection. God, the Father raised Jesus from the dead. Yet, Jesus said that He raised himself from the dead. ~~OK~~ Which is it?....

The point is: that in the days of his flesh, he voluntarily, willing, subjected himself to the Heavenly Father, not because He needed it, but because we need it. And it is His example that He is givening to us here. ~~What~~

When Christ prayed to the Father he prayed to the one who is continually able to save us. Even out-off death. Such confidence he displayed always, ~~and~~ to everyone, in terms of his relationship to the heavenly Father. And he became our great example in that ~~prayer~~

(2E) But, secondly, I notice his contuct before the Father was the reason that His prayer was answered. By the way, His prayer was answered. Vs 7 says that HE WAS HEARD because of His piety.....His prayer was answered. ~~And in a moment we will see that, stay with me.~~

~~But it was heard.~~ The Bible says so. And I say to you that it was because of his contuct that God answered his prayer.....WHY?.....

Because of the phrase "OF HIS PIETY"....What a great word....It means; ~~absolute~~ ~~submission~~ submission to the will of the Father".....~~He~~ ^{Jesus} was certain of the answer?....WHY?.....Because his life was always in complete harmony with the will of the Father.....

~~Did you know dear Christian, that every prayer of yours and mine would~~

Did you know, dear Christian, that every prayer of yours and mine would be answered if we were in complete harmony with the will of the Father?

Check out I John 5:14-15. "We have this confidence, we know that he hears us, if we pray according to what?.....HIS WILL.....No question about it Jesus was always living in harmony, absolute submission, to the will of the heavenly Father. And he knew his prayer was going to be answered. He knew it.

You say, "Well why pray for it?"....

Well, you know, I can read a lot of things in this book. And find out what God is going to do. I don't even need to pray for it. RIGHT?..... (Pitman)

A lot of you are looking at me with the strangest faces right now. You have no idea what the answer of that is.....

Isn't that kind off a tough problem? Hasn't that ever gone through your brain?... I mean, what if you knew how everything was going to come out. Why should you pray?....Right?....

Some people, you see, don't like that. So, they put Jesus down on a plain like us...And they say that He didn't know how it was going to come out..

The Bible says that he was heard "because of His ^{Pier!}...He was always submissive to the will of the Father. And he already knew ahead of time what was going to happen. COMPLETE SUBMISSION....AND YET, HE STILL PRAYED.....WHY?....

"Fellowship with God....Why the Father and the son were in constant contact and communication. Jesus was always seeking a place to be alone with the Father He told his disciples to come apart for awhile. He spent time alone in fellowship with His Father.

Do you think the only reason God wants you to come to talk with him is so that you can get your way?.....Do you think that is what Prayer is all about?.....So you can come into his presence and demand what you want in your life?.....

Oh, listen, that is not what it is all about....Who ever told us that kind off stuff.....

~~you~~ ^{you}, I want my life to start shaping up to the will of the heavenly Father. And I know that when I start ~~asking~~ ^{making} according to ~~his~~ ^{his} will, and God's will is revealed in this book, when I get ~~this~~ ^{His will} ~~think~~ on my brain and my heart,

when I find out what God wants in my life, and I begin to then pray that way, *then I have the* I am assured that God is going to answer my prayer.....

And that is really a tremendous principle and promise to apply to your life..... *if you are willing*

Jesus was constantly in harmony with the will of the Father. And his conduct proved it. *He* was submissive.

But it was an example for us.

40 Now, number four. Which is the important issue here. Examining the sufferings of our Lord, ~~the results of his supplications~~ *Results of his* and examining the results of His supplications, *I want to now* look at this in the explanation of how this prayer was answered.

Now, what was Jesus actually praying for in the Garden? To understand this, let's turn over to Luke chapter 22....Luke chapter 22 verse 39-46.

(Read Luke 22:39-46)

It is very interesting. He was praying and saying "Father, Vs 42, remove this cup from me; yet not my will, but thine be done."

Now, according to Hebrews 5, Vs 7 was his prayer answered?...YES?.... It says he was heard.....WHAT WAS HIS PRAYER?.....His prayer was: REMOVE THIS CUP FROM ME: YET NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE.

What is the cup? Was the cup removed? *And* why did he say: "Yet not my will, but thine be done.".....

Was the prayer answered or wasn't it?.....That is the ~~problem~~ *question*....

Let me give you some of the following suggestions as to *How* you might put this problem together. Before, I give you the correct one.

out One, some say that the prayer was answered, but the answer was NO... That is what some people believe. That the Father just said to Jesus: "I know what you are praying but the answer is NO....."

I don't know about you. But when the Bible says that the Father heard the prayer of Jesus because of His peity, I just can't believe that He said NO.....First of all the word "to Hear" means "to harken to with a YES"... So I can't believe that he would say NO....I rule that one out....

Number two...Some say that Christ prayed in the garden that Satan would not be allowed to take his life before his time.....That Jesus was fearing that possibility because of the pressure of death.....NONSENSE.... Satan never had a chance to take the life of Jesus. Jesus said in John 10:18, No one takes my life from me. I will lay it down of my own free will.... He was in absolute control and perfect power to do what ever he wanted to.

ok
To answer
the question

Now let's come back to Hebrews 5....And look at this carefully.... It says that ~~He~~ He was bringing ^{his} tears and prayers "to Him who was able to save Him from death".....Literally: "out of death".....

When ever you have the expression "out off death" "saving out off death" it is referring to the "resurrection." ~~That is the only way you do save anyway..~~ Out off the sphere of death into life.....THE ISSUE IS RESERRECTION.

The Bible says he was heard because of His piety. Which means What?.... He was raised from the dead.....The prayer was answered....

You ~~say~~ say, "Now, wait a minute, What about the Cup?".....Is is the cup of death?.....NOOOO.....Jesus didn't pray in the Garden "Remove this cup of death from me"....Yet, if I have to go through it I will".....,

That is nonsense...He came into the world to die. The son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. He was the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.....

So, Jesus wasn't praying to get out off death because he was scared to die.....NOOOOOO...^{ok}...What was the cup?.....Well, the Bible tells us right here in Hebrews chapter 5 what the cup was?

Vs 8 says: "although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered .".....THE CUP WAS SUFFERING.....

You see, Jesus came into the world to die. But what about all the suffering that accompanied it. It was part of the will of the Heavenly Father. WHY?... ~~Because~~, Because He needed to learn obedience?.....NOOOO.....But, because of us. ~~And I will explain that~~ ~~moment~~.

Christ suffered for us, the Bible says. The just for the unjust that he might bring us to God. The issue was to die so that salvation would be complete.....SO WHY ALL THE SUFFERING?.....

All the suffering was to prove to us that we have a symphatic Saviour whose been through it. Who knows what we have experienced. And non of us can say to him: "You can't save me. You don't even know what I am going through

Oh, yes, He does. He suffered in every way possible and greater than any one of us here in this room ever suffered. Tremendous suffering....

(2C) ~~So~~ ^{Now} ~~look~~ look at the reasons for his suffering. Vs 8 and 9...

(10) One, as to the experience he would receive, Vs 8...."although He was a son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered."

Two things here about the expeience he would receive. God wanted him to have this experience. *Why, Two Reasons*

(1E) One, the position he had with the Father. The Bible says in Vs 8 that he was s Son.....~~son~~ son.....He knew what the will of His Father was....He was a son. He was related to the Father.

But the issue here is even more than that. You don't cause a son to suffer. The son is the heir of all your inheritance. Why does the son have to go through the suffering?.....If Jesus is the Messiah, ^{he} is the King, ~~so~~ why does he have to suffer.....~~WHY DOES THE MESSIAH HAVE TO SUFFER?.....~~

ANSWER: Because the Messiah was not only going to be KING. BUT HE WAS GOING TO BE THE HIGH PRIEST AS WELL.

out And that is the problem to the Jews here in Hebrews. That is, how could Christ be a High Priest, yet not be of the ~~tribe~~ tribe of Aron.....

And the truth of the O.T. about the Messiah is that he is not only KING, but He is also a High Priest. And in order to be a High Priest, he must suffer, He would have to suffer greater than another High Priest.....WHY?....Because he was going to interceed and mediate for the whole world....

He suffered even though He has this position with the Father as Son.

JA Now, notice the point at which he need^d to learn obedience. People look at that and say: "There, you see Christ couldn't be who he claims to be. Because he had to learn obedience."

The Greek text says "THE OBEDIENCE".....The difinite articule "THE" is in front of the word "OBEDIENCE"...Thus, it is not referrring to obedience in general.....

Christ never had to learn obedience like a human person must learn it. He was always submissive. The Bible says that every last moment of his life he was submissive to the will of God. He came to do His will.

What does it mean "THE OBEDIENCE".....It would be the issue that is in the context....NAMELY THE SUFFERING THAT MAKES HIM A SYMPHATIC HIGH PREST. Not referring to obedience in general. He didn't need to learn that. He was always submissive ~~to~~ the Fathers will. But the particular one.

By the way, the word "obedient" comes from the word "to hear" and the word "by means of"....Literally: harkening to....listening to.....

And it is very interesting to me that that is the exact same word that is in Vs 9 when it says: "He became to all those who obey ^{to hear, to respond to} Him the souce of eternal salvation.".....C

Christ learned "THE OBEDIENCE" which was "listening to..." "responding to". "harkening to" the Father's will that He suffer in order to be a High Priest.

^{YOU} Christ prayed in the Garden that God deliever Him out-off death. And God answered that prayer....RESURRECTION.....

He also prayed: Remove this cup. And God did not....Because Christ also prayed "Yet, not my will but thine be done."..... He learned "THE OBEED?? OBEDIENCE"....The issue was suffering in order to be High Priest....Messiah is King...YES...BUT HE IS ALSO HIGH PRIEST. Or, else he cannot be the Saviour.

That is the most fastinating thing about ^{The} Messiah that you and I could ever learn. The Messiah in order to be a saviour has to be a High Priest. He had to perform the functions of the High Priest in the O.T. And he had to be the sacrifice. And Paul wraites this book to show us that Jesus was both High Priest and sacrifice for our sins..... ^{FAN TA 70}

⁽²⁰⁾ Secondly, let's look at the effects that this would bring. The effect that suffering would bring. We are told ~~in~~ in Vs 9 ~~that~~ "having been made perfect"....

People ask: "You mean Christ wasn't perfect"...NO...The issue here is not "moral perfection". We are not talking about "sinless perfection."

The word means "to complete"....Literally: "coming to the end"....

The end of what?.....The sufferings. Having been made perfect means "coming to the end of that period of suffering".....And then what happened?....
Vs 9 says: ^a He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation. ^{x1}

The source of salvation is Jesus. All those who are responding to Him, are those who believe in the completion of Christ Death on the Cross. He suffered on the cross for us. WHY?.....To prove that he is a High priest and understands our needs. He can sympathize with us.....Because he has been through it.....And Jesus in that one moment of suffering ^{on the cross} was obedient to the will of the Father.....So that he could be our High Priest. And Christ ~~in~~ ^{is} ~~that~~ ^{our savior because he} ~~issue~~ ^{responded} willingly to the will of the Father. ^{The means}

And now, Paul is saying, because of that He is the source of eternal salvation to all of those who respond to him in the same way....

And I though, How true that is in my life....God is asking me to be obedient....Obedience to the will of the Father.....Obedience is the issue in Christian Victory.....

One, last thing in Vs 10 it says that ^{He} was designat~~ed~~ by God as a high Priest according to the Order of Melchi~~z~~edek."

^{and} His selection was by God. The word "designated" is referring to his ~~title~~ title. Jesus is a Melchi~~z~~edek High Priest.....What does that mean?....

Turn in to chapter 7.....

^{and the angels} ~~Now, there is one issue~~ in all of these verse ^{is} That Christ knows what you and I have gone through. And He loves you....There isn't anything that you are going through, right now, that He doesn't know about and understands. He is our High Priest and our complete and final saviour.....

Let us close in prayer

The message of Palm Sunday is the triumph entry of Christ into Jerusalem as our King - and our High Priest - ^{and} The people missed the great blessing of that week. They had been asking, addressed him as King.