

“The God Who Joined Our Suffering”

Hebrews 4:14-5:8

Sermon Series: “Suffering And Good News”

Introduction: We began this series last week by asking a couple of questions so let’s review today. **Can suffering be avoided? The answer is no because suffering is unavoidable due to the reality of sin. Can we have hope in suffering? Yes, we can have hope in suffering because of what God has done for us in Christ.** We are going to build on the answer to the second question over the next three weeks by looking at what God has done for us in Christ.

Main Idea: We can have hope in suffering because Jesus is the God who joined us in our suffering.

1. Jesus is God who also became a man. This text is very clear that Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth as a genuine human being who was tempted in every way that we are, and then He ascended back to heaven to rejoin the Father at His right hand. The Bible teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully man (Colossians 2:9). Here is a way to look at that:

Jesus: The God-Man

GOD

Creator
Virgin Conception
2nd Advent (Rule and Reign)
Baptizes with the Spirit
Law – Giver
Cattle on a Thousand Hills
Gives rest to Our Souls
Calmed the Storm
Dries away Our Tears
Living Water
Bread of Life
Good Shepherd
God of all Comfort
Supplies our Needs
Faithful and True
All-knowing, Wisdom
All-present

MAN

Part of Creation
Born of a Woman
Born in a Manger
Baptized by John
Under the Law
No where to Lay His Head
Got tired
Slept in the Boat
Wept
Got Thirsty
Got Hungry
Lamb of God (Sheep before His Slaughter)
Man of Sorrow and Grief
Poor and Outcast
Falsely Accused; Betrayed
Family thought He was crazy
Limited by time and space

Door of Salvation	Carpenter
Advocate, Intercessor, Mediator	Forsaken
Creator, Sustainer, Owner	Own Received Him Not
Lord of lord's	Servant
King of kings	Meek and humble
High Priest	Prayed
Was Worshipped	Went to Temple
Unchanging	Grew in wisdom, stature, etc.
Alpha and Omega	Lived 33 Years
Cursed Sin	Became a Curse
Great Physician	Knew intense Pain
Atoning Death	Criminal's Death
All-Powerful	Too Weak to Carry His Cross
Many Crowns	Crown of Thorns
Rose Again	Died
Holy	Became Sin for Us
Light of the World	Died in Darkness
Never Leave or Forsake Us	Loneliness
Knew no Sin	Became sin for Us
Clothed in Glory	Wrapped in swaddling clothes
	Wore Common man's clothes
	Was crucified Naked

2. As a man, Jesus suffered and was tempted. What does this mean to us?

A. He overcame all temptation. He understands the full power of temptation because He never sinned.

B. He sympathizes with us in our weaknesses. John MacArthur writes regarding the word weaknesses, "Weaknesses does not refer directly to sin, but to feebleness or infirmity. It refers to all the natural limitations of humanity, which, however, include liability to sin." "Sympathize" is translated from the Greek word, "*sunpatheo*." Greek scholar Kenneth Wuest explains it by writing, "The compound word means 'to suffer with' another person, thus to sympathize with him to the extent of entering in to his experience and feeling his heartache yourself. The use of the word here means more than a knowledge of human infirmity. It points to a knowledge that has in it a feeling for the other person by reason of a common experience with that person. Our Lord's appreciation of our infirmities is an experiential one, based upon the fact that He was tempted like we are."

C. He is our model in dealing with suffering (Hebrews 5:1-8).

-God delivered Jesus through raising Him from the dead instead of from death.

Sometimes He delivers us from things and sometimes through things.

-He was heard even though He still died. The answer was in the resurrection instead of being spared from death. We are children of God who are heard as well even if it doesn't always seem like it.

-Even Jesus learned obedience through His sufferings so how could we expect to learn obedience any other way?

-Through suffering, God did something both in and through Jesus, and it works the same way for us.

-Emotions or wrestling with God do not indicate a lack of faith (Garden of Gethsemane).

-Christ surrendered to the will of the Father by faith, and that is ultimately what we are called to do as well.

3. Jesus became our great High Priest. The High Priest in the Old Testament went to God on behalf of the people and offered sacrifices for their sins, and he went to the people and ministered to them on behalf of God. Jesus does both as well. He is our Mediator. He is both the sacrifice and the one who offers the sacrifice.

A. He is able to save us (Hebrews 7:25-28).

B. He is available to help us in our suffering.

4. Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can now:

A. Receive eternal salvation.

B. Hold fast our confession even during suffering

C. Come boldly ("with freedom of speech") to God's throne of grace and receive grace and mercy to help in our time of need.