

THE GLORY OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 – 1 PETER series – Pastor Ben Nistor

LAST SUNDAY (MARCH 22): SHARE IN CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS

Key Point: Christians should expect trials, rejoice and share in Christ's sufferings, and trust God for refinement.

Human Assumption	Biblical Reality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffering = God is against you Ease = favor Hardship = punishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suffering (for righteousness) = God is with you Faithful suffering often = deeper favor Refinement, sonship, and participation in Christ

WEDNESDAY (MARCH 25): SHARING IN CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS: PAUL, THE PROPHETS & THE PATRIARCHS

Key Point: Living righteously before God always produced suffering in a fallen world. Nothing new!

The Patriarchs	Abel → killed by his brother Cain (Genesis 4) Noah → mocked by everyone around him (Genesis 6–9) Abraham → displaced from his homeland (Genesis 12) Joseph → betrayed by his brothers, falsely accused, imprisoned (Genesis 38–50) Job → afflicted under the eye of God (Job 1–2) Moses → opposed from his birth to death (Exodus 1–2; Numbers 11–25) David → hunted by enemies, friends and family (1 Samuel 19)
The Major Prophets	Isaiah → likely martyred (Hebrews 11:37) Jeremiah → beaten (Jer 20:2), imprisoned (Jer 37:15), cistern (Jer 38:6) Ezekiel → severe prophetic burdens (Ezek 4–5), personal loss (Ezek 24:16) Daniel → falsely accused, framed and thrown in the lions' den (Dan 6)
The Earlier Prophets	Elijah → hunted down (1 Kings 19:2–3) Elisha → threatened/rejected (2 Kings 6) Micaiah → struck and imprisoned (1 Kings 22:24–27)
The Later / Minor Prophets	Amos → expelled and opposed (Amos 7:10–13) Zechariah (son of Jehoiada) → STONED TO DEATH IN THE TEMPLE! (2 Chron 24:20–21) John the Baptist → Beheaded by Herod (Matthew 14:10)
The Suffering Servant	JESUS OF NAZARETH, the MESSIAH → Suffered at the hands of sinners (Acts 2:36)
The Apostles	The Apostle Peter → imprisoned, persecuted, martyred for proclaiming Christ (Acts 5:17–42; 1 Peter 4:12–19) James (brother of John) → executed for righteousness' sake (Acts 12:1–2) Other Apostles → scattered, imprisoned, and persecuted for preaching Christ (Acts 8:1; Acts 12:1–5) The Apostle Paul → beaten, jailed, falsely accused, martyred (2 Cor 11:23–28; Acts 21:33; 2 Tim 4:6–8)
The Early Church	Persecuted by authorities → arrested, threatened, and falsely accused (Acts 4:1–3; 5:17–42) Stephen → stoned, others killed for confessing Christ (Acts 7:54–60; Rev 2:13) Endured hardship → poverty, slander, social rejection (Acts 2:44–45; 2 Cor 4:8–12; Heb 10:32–36; 1 Pet 4:12–19) Timothy → endured hardships for gospel service (1 Tim 4:10; 2 Tim 3:10–12; 2 Tim 4:5–8)

TODAY, PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 29): THE GLORY OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

1 PETER 4:13

English Standard Version (ESV)

13 But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

Key Point: REJOICE! God planned the sufferings of Christ as the path to glory. Through the cross of Christ, we join Christ in his sufferings and follow him toward glory.

SUFFERING AND GLORY IN PETER'S LETTER

The Apostle Peter shows suffering/glory clearly in his letter:

1 Peter 1:6–7 *6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, **you have been grieved by various trials**, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

1 Peter 1:10–11 *10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted **the sufferings of Christ** and the subsequent glories.*

1 Peter 2:21 *Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.*

1 Peter 3:18 *For **Christ also suffered** once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.*

1 Peter 4:1 *Since therefore **Christ suffered in the flesh**, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking*

1 Peter 4:14 *14 If you are **insulted for the name of Christ**, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*

1 Peter 5:1 *So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of **the sufferings of Christ** as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed*

1 Peter 5:10 *And after **you have suffered a little while**, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*

WHAT WERE THE SUFFERINGS OF CHRIST?

1) The Suffering of the Incarnation

- The suffering of being found in human form (Phil. 2:7; Heb 2:10–15)
- The suffering of poverty and geographical displacement (Luke 2:7, 24)
- The suffering of being hunted as an infant (Matt. 2:13–18)

2) The Suffering of His Earthly Life

- The suffering of temptation (Matt. 4:1–11; Heb. 4:15)
- The suffering of rejection (Mark 6:1–6; John 7:5)
- The suffering of sorrow (John 11:35; Luke 19:41–44)
- The suffering of slander (Mark 2:7; Matt. 12:24; John 8:48)

3) The Sufferings of Gethsemane

- The suffering of soul-crushing agony (Matt. 26:38; Luke 22:44; Heb. 5:7)
- The suffering of unanswered prayer (Matt. 26:39)
- The suffering of disappointment (Matt. 26:40)

4) The Sufferings of Arrest, Trial, and Abuse

- The suffering of betrayal by Judas (Matt. 26:49)
- The suffering of total desertion by his disciples (Matt. 26:56)
- The suffering of denial by Peter (Matt. 26:69–75)
- The suffering of false accusation (Matt. 26:59–61)
- The suffering of being struck and spit on (Matt. 26:67)
- The suffering of flogging (Matt. 27:26; Isa. 53:5)
- The suffering of the crown of thorns (Matt. 27:29–30)
- The suffering of being led to execution (John 19:17; cf. Luke 23:26)

5) The Sufferings of Crucifixion

- The suffering of being nailed to the cross (John 20:25; Ps. 22:16)
- The suffering of being numbered with criminals (Isa. 53:12; Mark 15:27)
- The suffering of being mocked in his dying (Matt. 27:44)

- The suffering of public nakedness and shame (John 19:23–24; Ps. 22:18)
- The suffering of thirst (John 19:28; Ps. 69:21)
- The suffering of forsakenness by God (Matt. 27:46; Ps. 22:1)
- The suffering of bearing sin (1 Pet. 2:24; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13)
- The suffering of death (Heb. 2:9)

WHY DID CHRIST SUFFER?

Christ suffered for the glory and joy set before him...

- 1) For the Glory and Joy of fulfilling God's eternal plan

Revelation 13:8 *and all who dwell on earth will worship [the beast], everyone whose name has not been written from **the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.***

John 12:27–28: *“Now **is my soul troubled.** And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.”*

John 17:4–5: *I glorified you on earth, **having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.** And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*

See also Ephesians 1:3–10

- 2) For the Glory and Joy of defeating death and the devil

Hebrews 2:14–15 *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, **he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those** who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

- 3) For the Glory and Joy of bringing sinners to God

1 Peter 3:18 *For **Christ also suffered** once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.*

Hebrews 2:10 *...it was fitting that [God], for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation [Jesus] perfect through suffering.*

- 4) For the Glory and Joy of being exalted to God's right hand

Hebrews 12:2 *...who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.***

Philippians 2:8–9 *He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, **even death on a cross.** Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.*

WHERE IS GOD IN YOUR SUFFERING? WHERE ARE YOU IN CHRIST'S SUFFERING?

The fall released global streams of suffering into the world.

The cross is where every one of those streams can be redeemed for God's glory.

That is because at the cross, God unites every Christian to Christ's suffering, making it possible for Christians to experience all suffering through Christ.

Therefore, join Christ in his suffering so that you can rejoice in his glory.

suffering glory

- 1) **Have you placed your trust in Jesus?** Are you united to Him, **in his death** and resurrection?

- 2) Have you come to rejoice in your holy suffering, knowing that you share in Christ's suffering? 1 Peter 4:13
Are you suffering because you were unrighteous? Run to Christ!

- 3) Have you come to rejoice in your holy suffering, knowing that God's glory is to come?
Do you trust God's plan to bring you to his glory through suffering?

PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR HOLY WEEK WORKSHEET

Adapted from Pastor Andrew's sermon 'Preparing for Holy Week,' April 5, 2025

WHAT IS HOLY WEEK?

PALM SUNDAY, TODAY

Jesus's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem,
Jesus's teachings
Jesus's High Priestly Prayer
Passover (the Last Supper),
Garden of Gethsemane,
Betrayal and Abandonment by the Disciples
Condemnations and court,
Mockings and beatings
Peter's Denial
Crucifixion,
Burial,

RESURRECTION SUNDAY, NEXT SUNDAY

HOW CAN YOU PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR HOLY WEEK?

Palm Sunday: Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey and is hailed by crowds as their king.

Read: Matthew 21:1-10.

Journal: How does Jesus's humility stir your awe of Him? How can you honor Him as your King today?

Holy Monday: Jesus cleanses the temple, provoking religious leaders to seek His arrest.

Read: Matthew 21:12-17.

Journal: Give Jesus your unashamed praise today. Thank Him for who He is and all He has done!

Holy Tuesday: Jesus teaches in the temple and is worshipped by children as the Messiah.

Read: Matthew 21:18-46.

Journal: Has God ever used a seeming setback to bring about His good purposes for you? Reflect on His wisdom and grace in doing so. Praise Him for completing His perfect redemption plan through Jesus!

Holy Wednesday: Jesus is anointed by Mary, preparing Him for burial.

Read: Matthew 26:1-13.

Journal: How does Mary giving everything she had for Jesus inspire, convict, or move you? How can you imitate her love for Jesus today?

Maundy "Commandment" Thursday: Jesus shares the Last Supper with His disciples and is arrested soon after.

Read: Matthew 26:14-56.

Journal: How does Jesus' love and care for His disciples before His arrest affect you? How do you feel knowing Jesus faithfully carried out His mission to die the death you deserved as a sinner?

Good Friday: Jesus is crucified in the morning between two thieves. He dies and is buried.

Read: Matthew 27:1-61.

Journal: As you consider all Jesus suffered on your behalf and how He demonstrated deep love for you through His death on the cross, take some time to mourn over your sin and thank Jesus for His sacrifice.

Holy Saturday: Jesus' body lay in the tomb, while His disciples mourn His death.

Read: Matthew 27:62-66.

Journal: Spend time reflecting on this day in history. Bring your unmet expectations about Jesus to Him in prayer and confess them. Thank Him for His wise and sovereign plan of salvation!

And get ready—Sunday is coming!