LESSON 12

The Suffering and Death of Jesus

Read: Matthew 26:30 – 27:50; John 18, 19; Psalm 22:1-21

A Pastoral Message

When we meditate on Christ's humiliation, we must consider both His incarnation and His atoning death. His incarnation is the wondrous mystery that He, the Son of God, took on a human nature. We cannot comprehend the glory and bliss He enjoyed prior to His incarnation. From all eternity He was truly one with the Father in glory and majesty.

When He became man, He was called Emmanuel: "God with us." The wonder of all wonders is that in infinite love, He laid His glory aside. He never ceased to be God, but His divine glory was veiled by His human nature. Moreover, in His human nature, He was in all points like unto us. Sin was the only exception.

His incarnation, however, was only the beginning of His humiliation. As the suffering Servant of the Lord, He descended to yet a lower state. He became obedient unto death, even unto the death of the cross. Salvation could not be accomplished in any other way.

Christ was ever aware of this. His delight was to do the will of His Father, to ransom His guilty people. He loved them to the end. Even when the sufferings of Gethsemane and Calvary were upon Him, He persevered with the readiness of perfect love and submission.

His sufferings were in harmony with His Father's will. He completely resigned Himself to this will and paid the ransom price for the salvation of guilty sinners. He loved them more than His own life.

In all His sufferings, He revealed that His sacrifice was the sacrifice of love!

1. Q. What has Christ, the Son of God, done for the salvation of sinners?

   A. He took our h _ _ _ _ nature, He lived a perfect l _ _ _ , He suffered for His people, He descended into hell, He died on the c _ _ _ _ , and He was b _ _ _ _ _ .

2. Q. When did the Saviour suffer?

   A. During His entire l _ _ _ , but especially in the G _ _ _ _ _ of Gethsemane, during His trials before Caiaphas and Pilate, and on the Cross of Calvary.

3. Q. In which nature did Jesus suffer all this?

   A. Only in His _ _ _ _ _ nature, that is, in soul and body.

4. Q. Why did Jesus endure all this?

   A. Because He had agreed with His F _ _ _ _r to stand in the place of His people, and to take upon Himself their sin and punishment.

I. His Humble Birth

The humiliation which Christ endured at birth consisted mainly in that:

1. He "took _ _ _ _   _ _ _ the _ _ _ _ of _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , and _ _ _   _ _ _ _ in the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ (Philippians 2:7)."
2. He laid aside the g _ _ _ _ which He had with the F _ _ _ _ _ before the world was (John 17:5b).
3. God sent His Son in the likeness of _ _ _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ (Romans 8:3).

Something to think about:

1. Was Christ's humble birth the beginning of His existence? (Micah 5:2)

   (a) Yes.   (b) No.

   Underline the correct answer.
2. It was a greater degree of humiliation for Jesus to leave heaven and dwell among us as He did, than it would be for a king to leave his throne and work as a slave. (Philippians 2:6,7)

   (a) True.   (b) False.

   Underline the correct answer.

II. His Life of Suffering

1. What did Christ endure during His ministry?
   (a) The Son of Man hath _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _   _ _ _   _ _ _ _ (Matthew 8:20c).
   (b) He _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _   _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _ (Isaiah 53:3a).
   (c) And _ _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _ , He hath a _ _ _ _ _ and _ _   _ _ _ (John 10:20).
   (d) They wanted to k _ _ _   _ _ _ (Luke 4:29).
   (e) He hath _ _ _ _ _   _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ and carried _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Isaiah 53:4a).
2. What did Christ endure in Gethsemane?
   (a) His heart was so filled with _ _ _ _ _ _ , He was near to d _ _ _ _ (Matthew 26:38a).
   (b) Jesus being in a deep agony, prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was as it were _ _ _ _ _   _ _ _ _ _   _ _   _ _ _ _ _ (Luke 22:44).

State briefly how Christ was treated by:

(a) The Jews: “they _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ; and _ ” (Matthew 26:67).

(b) The soldiers: They put a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ on _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and a _ _ _ _ in _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ . They m _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Matthew 27:29).

(c) Pilate: Pilate took Jesus and _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (John 19:1).

III. His Suffering and Death on the Cross

1. They _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Him and placed Him between _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Matthew 27:35a,38). It was very painful.

   In Psalm 22:14-15 we read, “I am _ _ _ _ _ _ out like _ _ _ _ _ , all my _ _ _ _ _ are out of _ _ _ _ _ . . . My strength is _ _ _ _ _ up . . . my tongue _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to my jaws.” In Isaiah 53:5 we learn that “He was _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ for _ _ _ transgressions, he was _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ for _ _ _ iniquities; the chastisement of our _ _ _ _ _ was upon him; and with his _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ we are healed.”

2. The most bitter part of Christ’s suffering was that he was made a _ _ _ _ _ for us (Galatians 3:13).

3. Christ died (John 10:15-18):

   (a) as a martyr.

   (b) a helpless victim of injustice.

   (c) because He willingly gave His life.

   (d) from complete exhaustion.

   Underline the correct answer.

4. Q. For whom did Christ die? (John 10:15b)

   A. The G _ _ _ S _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ died for His _ _ _ _ _ .

5. Jesus knew what awaited Him. (Matthew 16:21)

   (a) True. (b) False.

   Underline the correct answer.

6. Did Jesus (Isaiah 53:7):

   (a) cry for mercy?

   (b) complain?

   (c) suffer in silence?

   Underline one.

IV. His Burial

1. Q. Who buried Jesus? (John 19:38-39).

   A. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ and Ni _ _ _ _ _ _ _

   "N _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ brought a mixture of _ _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ , about an _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ weight."

2. The body of Jesus was wrapped in _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _with the spices (John 19:40).

3. Did Christ's body see corruption? (Acts 2:31)

   (a) Yes.

   (b) No.

   Underline the correct answer.

4. Christ, by His burial, has sanctified the grave for His people. Now the Christian can say: "O death where is thy _ _ _ _ _? O _ _ _ _ _ where is thy victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55)

V. His Descent into Hell

Where is hell? What is endured there? In Matthew 25:41 we learn that hell is a place where the lost are separated for ever from the gracious presence of God. There they endure the just and awful punishment for their sins.

Jesus was never in the place where the final impenitent sinners receive their due reward. However, what He experienced in His last three hours on the cross was nothing less than the bitter anguish of hell.

The wrath of His holy Father was poured out on Him. This caused the dear Redeemer to cry, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) The agonies which Christ endured on the cross also teach us what the unsaved will endure in eternity.

Christ's sacrifice of love is the only foundation of the sinner's pardon and acceptance in the sight of a holy God. What a sure foundation is thus laid for the full salvation of lost sinners. Here is the most precious divine comfort, pardoning love and renewing grace.

How blessed are all who do turn in their great need as helpless sinners, without money and without price, to this Ocean of God's eternal love. They are washed and made whiter than snow!

Evaluator: _____