

King Jesus before His Father's Wrath

Matthew 27:39-38

Halifax: 8 July 2007

Introduction:

Today in our study of Matthew's Gospel we come what is perhaps the most momentous three hours in all of history.

- Indeed, the creation of Adam and Eve was a momentous event...
 - so was the great flood in Noah's day when the whole world (which may well have been as populated as it is today) perished with exception of one family...
 - and there is that day when the Son of God, the eternal God of glory, became human flesh and the angels attended to sing praises to God...
 - and there is that coming day when the Lord will return with glory to judge the just and the unjust and to at last establish His kingdom of perfect righteousness...
- But in our text today, we have the account of those hours when the anguish of the Son of God rose to a height that surpasses all human understanding.
 - Already He had been falsely arrested and accused by His own people who ought to have honoured Him.
 - Already He had been forsaken by His own disciples, betrayed by one, and denied by another.
 - Already He had been mocked, beaten, spit upon, and scourged.
 - Already He had felt the cruel nails in His hands and feet, and had felt His bones pulled out of joint as the cross was raised and dropped into place.
- But for Him, all this was but the beginning of His sorrows...
 - Today we shall look at the climax of His sufferings...
 - at the very height and depth of His pains.
 - We shall see what our sins brought upon our holy and righteous Master!
 - Let us stand back and marvel,
 - Let us be humbled to love Him as never before.

I. First of all, there were the terrible taunts of those who surrounded Him at the cross.

A. These arose from three very different sources...

- We may call them ignorant sinners, religious sinners, and condemned sinners.

1. The ignorant sinners were those who just happened to be passing by.
 - a. There were hordes of people—probably about three million—who were in Jerusalem at this time to celebrate the Passover...
 - Many of them knew about Jesus, they knew that He was a prophet from Nazareth who had done miracles and had many followers...
 - Word of such things travelled quickly...
 - b. But now, seeing Him helplessly suspended on the cross,
 - they being to scoff and blaspheme—
 - They were convinced that such a person in such a condition could not possibly be the Messiah.
 - And so they call upon Him to save Himself!
 - “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!”
 - c. These are like so many today who blindly follow whatever public policy dictates...
 - 1) They have no discernment, not because they are stupid, but because they prefer to remain ignorant...
 - They feel that as long as they don’t bother to look into it and search it out, they will be safe...
 - They are content to rely on the conclusions of others...
 - Their thought is,
 - “There, He has been condemned by the chief priests and rulers, we need not bother to look into this.”
 - Such persons are very glad to have an excuse for their unbelief.
 - It is a relief to them to pick up the false accusations...
 - See how they spout off the false accusation that was made against him that He had said He would destroy the temple and build it again in three days.
 - Jesus never actually said that, but have heard that He did!
 - 2) How often do I meet people like this today.
 - You speak to them about our Lord and they say...
 - “The Bible is full of contradictions...” even though they can’t name a single one... they’ve just heard that...
 - or “What about evolution?” as if that flimsy theory overthrows the gospel...

- They are ignorant sinners who just spout off what they have heard.
- They are happy to have an excuse to dismiss the Lord's claims on their lives.

3) Now be careful, you who believe—

- You must not say, "I am glad that I am not like that."
- Examine yourself and you will find that there is this same tendency in you.
 - Do you not find that there are certain duties or doctrines that you prefer to remain ignorant about because you don't want to be obligated to follow?
 - Perhaps as a husband you don't really want to look very carefully at what God calls you to be as a husband and father...
 - You feel you can safely avoid your obligations as long as you remain ignorant...
 - You are happy to go along with what you have heard rather than seriously inquiring about God's will.

TRANS> This is the way of the ignorant sinners who taunted our Lord.

2. Next there are the religious sinners: the chief priests, the scribes, and elders

a. It is strange to see them present at a crucifixion!

- But they are here to gloat.
- They are gloating because the one they envy is now in the place of cursing—rejected by God.
- It is a great comfort to them that God does not rescue Him from the cross.
 - They say,
 - "He saved others [see how they admit the reality of His miracles]; Himself He cannot save."
 - An amazing statement that is true—but not in the way they meant it...
 - It was true that even in coming to save others, He could not save Himself...
 - He had to suffer in order to redeem us.

b. They are gloating because they are full of envy

1) These religious sinners are the ones who are eager to be righteous—

- They want to think that they are God’s favourites because of their long prayers, their fasting, their carefulness to keep themselves pure, their avoidance of certain company, their Sabbath observance, and so on...
 - They want to be known as God’s favourites and respected as such among the people.
- 2) They hated Jesus because He kept exposing their hypocrisy...
- How this annoyed them!
 - Jesus truly was righteous, and this was plain for anyone to see who cared to look into it...
 - It was not these religious hypocrites, but Jesus that was God’s favourite...
 - It was Jesus that met God’s approval...and that is why they hate Him so!
 - Notice that they have such disdain for Him that they will not even speak to Him in their taunts—they only speak about Him.

TRANS> What an ugly sin, this envy, this gloating...

- c. But once again, you need to see that this spirit of envy is found in every son of Adam...
- 1) It is the spirit that makes us resent it when we see our neighbour doing what is right when are not...
- We all have a certain amount of self-righteousness that we defend...
 - I have seen this self-righteousness even in hardened criminals...
 - But this resentment is especially the possession of those who are the most religious...
 - They want to find fault with others who seem to be more religious than they are...
 - “they must be putting on a show...”
 - “their insights must be flawed...”
 - This is that wicked spirit that makes us secretly rejoice when the righteous fall...
 - I don’t mean to say that as those whose hearts God has changed by His Spirit we do not have true sorrow when the righteous stumble...
 - but I’m not sure any one of us can claim that we are entirely free from a little gloating—a little relief that the one who seemed so holy is really no better than we are!

- 2) And I say that to whatever that spirit is present,
- it is present toward the LORD Jesus Christ Himself—it is the same ugly sin (though to a different degree) that we see in these gloating Jewish leaders...
 - Even though we know that our acceptance is based on His acceptance,
 - we still find it difficult to admit that we have been less than upright in our behaviour,
 - and when our brothers outshine us, we resent it...
 - that is to resent Christ in them my brothers and sisters!
 - Oh how we need to hate this sin...
 - How wretched it is to gloat when your brother stumbles.
 - It puts you with these gloating priests and elders at the cross.
 - This envious gloating is all around us...
 - Isn't that why we all enjoy a good story about a minister who gets caught in sin?
 - Isn't that why righteous men are often falsely accused and attacked from every side (the way Jesus was)?
 - It all grows out of envy that Jesus is the only one who was truly righteous.

TRANS> So we see the ignorant sinners and the religious sinners who taunted Jesus...

3. Now see the condemned sinners—these robbers or bandits.
- a. These robbers were not being crucified for stealing vegetables at the local market!
 - The Romans did not crucify for petty theft!
 - These were hardened criminals who killed and tortured their victims.
 - They were being crucified because they deserved it.
 - b. Now you would think that such men would be very humble at this point!
 - 1) They are dying on crosses!
 - They are soon to meet their Maker!
 - But we are told that they reviled the Lord too...
 - Even these robbers said the same things that the ignorant passers by and the religious leaders were saying.

- 2) You can be sure that they had some of the same sentiment as the ones they imitated...
 - They were taking comfort in the fact that this man who was supposed to be a prophet was, they ignorantly supposed, no different than they were...
 - He had made a lot of claims, but on the cross He was just like they were.
 - They need not be bothered about him...

- 3) Matthew tells us that both robbers joined in the taunt—they were just alike in this...
 - But of course we are told in Luke that God’s grace takes hold of one of them...
 - God’s grace takes hold of him because he starts to look at this man on the cross beside him and to realise that He is not the same at all...
 - As he watches Jesus, it becomes clear to him that Jesus is very different...
 - And so this man, this very once very hardened man, turns to Jesus for salvation and asks Jesus to remember him when he comes in His kingdom...
 - And Jesus says, “This day you will be with me in paradise!”

- c. But consider the taunts of these robbers—
 - even these who were themselves condemned...
 - How foolish this is!
 - How foolish it is for we, who apart from Christ, are condemned sinners,
 - to try to comfort ourselves in taking up the pretence that Jesus is not righteous in God’s eyes—that He is like us!
 - Our only hope is found in the fact that He **is** righteous!
 - Do not join in with the taunts of these ignorant sinners and religious sinners like these robbers...
 - We all stand condemned before God’s holy throne...
 - We cannot lesson that condemnation by ignoring Jesus or trying to pretend that He is unworthy.
 - Learn rather to glory in His perfect righteousness!

B. But now I want you to think about how hurtful these taunts were to our Lord!

1. The substance of these taunts was that God the Father despised Jesus, otherwise He would rescue Him.
 - a. When you consider our Lord, who He was, and what was important to Him, you can see how cutting these taunts were to Him.
 - 1) Remember that He was the very Son of God
 - For all eternity He had enjoyed perfect fellowship and communion with the Father in heaven.
 - 2) Everything He ever did, He did to please the Father.
 - Pleasing the Father was what He lived for...
 - It was His eternal delight and His chief happiness...
 - His very defining purpose—the very marrow of His existence.
 - In John 5, He says, “I always do what pleases the Father” and goes on to say that He never does anything without this in view.
 - He has ever lived in this blessed relationship of love and delight in the perfections of His Father and in the smile of His Father.
 - b. Now of course when pleasing another and honouring another is what your life is all about,
 - It is very hurtful when people think otherwise...
 - When they claim that the one whose smile you live for has rejected you...
 - That you are not really what you say you are, but are only a pretender and a hypocrite.
 - “If the Father delights in Him, let Him deliver Him...”
 - “If He really is the Son of God, let Him come down from the cross.”

TRANS> They were saying that the One whom Jesus eternally lives to please was not pleased...

2. The very suggestion of this was very hurtful...
 - a. Even as it would be hurtful to a child, who lived in his parents love, to be told that his parents did not really love him...
 - and then to have proofs of this brought forward...
 - b. Indeed, many of you know the pain of having parents or spouses that you never seem to please...

- It is a painful thing...
- c. But how much more painful was it for our Lord whose Father is so much more honourable and glorious than our parents...
 - and whose commitment to His Father was a thousand time greater than our commitment—
 - and who loved His Father more than we can begin to understand...
 - yet here He is taunted as one who does not love Him and does not please Him and who is utterly rejected by Him!

TRANS> The very suggestion of these taunters that Jesus was rejected of His Father was enough to bring great anguish to our Lord...

- But there was something that made these taunts far more hurtful to our Lord...
 - The fact that they were, in a certain way, true!
 - And that is the next thing I want you to see:

II. Our Lord's sufferings reached their infinite height when He was indeed rejected by His Father in heaven!

- A. What His taunters had suggested became true and He knew it was true!
 1. For three hours, darkness fell upon the land while the frown of heaven fell upon God's Son.
 - a. We are told that this darkness occurred from the sixth hour of the day until the ninth hour...
 - that is, from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm.
 - b. Throughout the scripture, darkness is picture of God's judgement...
 - Jesus Himself had often spoken of those who, on the day of judgement, would be cast into the place of outer darkness.
 - The Prophet Amos wrote:
 - Amos 5:20: "*Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light? Is it not very dark, with no brightness in it?*"
 - And the Prophet Zephaniah wrote:
 - Zeph 1:14-15: "*The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out. That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,*"

TRANS> Throughout the scripture, darkness is a picture of wrath and judgement, and there is no doubt that it is a picture of God's wrath that fell upon His Son on the cross...

- c. When this darkness enveloped our Lord Jesus on the cross, so did His Father's wrath and judgement...
 - Jesus taunters were heralds who were zealously announcing the Father's rejection of His Son.
 - We are told very little about what went on during these three hours...
 - All we are told that it was dark...
 - And that at the end of it, our Lord cried out:
 - "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?"

TRANS> From the darkness alone, we might not have know that this darkness represented the Father's rejection of the Son...

- 2. But from the cry, "My God, My God, Why have your forsaken me?" we know.
 - a. These words show us that the rejection of the Father was a real rejection...
 - The Son did not merely imagine Himself to be forsaken...
 - He **was truly** forsaken.
 - It was the anticipation of this that caused the mighty Lord of Glory to recoil in horror at Gethsemane—to sweat drops of blood in agony!

TRANS> "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken Me!"

- b. These words are astounding!
 - How could it be that the eternal fellowship of God the Father and God the Son could be broken!
 - How could it be possible that the Son should fall under the displeasure of His heavenly Father when it was ever His delight and whole existence to please Him?
 - There is much here that goes beyond human understanding.
 - But the thing that is clear is that the person who united the divine and human natures of Jesus suffered rejection in the human nature.
- c. Oh my friends,
 - It was during these three horrible hours that the Father ceased to delight in the Son of His love...

- We don't know the glory of God the way the Son does, so we can only understand horror of it in part...
 - We cannot yet fathom how dreadful it will be in the day of judgement for all those who are rejected by our glorious God.
 - It will be a rejection so horrible that we don't begin to grasp it...

- And yet, it was this very same rejection that Jesus endured for us!
 - Jesus, who did know the glory of the Father!
 - Jesus, whose eternal purpose it had been to please the Father!

- It was this rejection that caused Him to cry out and say,
 - "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me."
 - He did not imagine that He was forsaken—
 - He truly was forsaken, cut off, rejected as a vile, loathsome, wretched sinner before His Father...
 - Behold and marvel!
 - This was the climax of His sufferings!

TRANS> But how did it come about that Jesus should become the object of His Father's contempt?

B. How was it that He,

- who had always only lived to please His Father,
- who for all eternity recoiled at doing anything—even having a passing thought—that was displeasing to the Father...
- who had perfect discipline and wisdom and self-control...
 - could ever come to so displease Him?

1. The Scripture tells us...

- a. It tells us that our iniquities were laid on Him...
 - That means that He was charged with them all as if He had committed them all.

- b. In 2 Corinthians 5, it tells us that He who knew no sin became sin for us...

- c. In Gal 3:14, it tells us became a curse for us—He received the curse of His Father as if He were the One who had brought down that curse.

- d. In Isaiah, we are told that He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities.

- e. Jesus Himself tells us that He came to give His life a ransom for many...
2. You see, Jesus was on a mission to redeem His church...
 - a. He knew what we had become—loathsome sinners in the sight of a holy God—
 - He was horrified that we who had been made in God’s glorious image, had become defiled and corrupted.
 - He knew the unspeakable agonies that we would face when God’s judgement and wrath at last fully fell upon us—
 - b. But He knew that it was His Father’s good pleasure to chose out of the mass of the ruined, fallen, sinful, human race,
 - individuals upon whom He would show mercy!
 - And He knew that the Father had purposed that He, the Son of God, should come to earth to redeem them...
 - to bear their sins in His own body...
 - to be made sin for them so that they might be righteous...
 - to bruised for their iniquities so they could be released.
 - to give his life a ransom for them.
 - c. And so that is exactly what Jesus did...
 - and that is why He was truly rejected on the cross.
 - 1) At the cross Jesus was before the Father as the One who had committed all of our transgressions...
 - He voluntarily joined Himself to us as our head even though that meant that He would take upon Himself all of our guilt...
 - It is something like a wealthy groom who marries a bride who is in such deep dept that it means he must go to debtor’s prison.
 - 2) By association with us,
 - a) He became guilty of all our blasphemies, all our idolatry, all our ingratitude, all our rebellion, all our bitterness, all our malice and envy.
 - There, at the cross, the Father looked upon Him with disdain as the One who had committed all these sins—our sins were laid on Him!
 - And there He bore the shame and the curse... truly and really...
 - b) Perhaps you know what it is like to be falsely accused...

- Children, perhaps we need a story about Junior to illustrate...
 - When Junior was twelve, he had gone up to visit his cousin Butch for a few days.
 - His cousin had a couple of friends who had motor bikes, and they rode them around the neighbourhood, sometimes on the road.
 - Junior was riding with them during his visit and several of the neighbours complained...
 - The police came and the bikes were taken away.
 - Butch and his friends were very upset about this,
 - and they decided that they would retaliate by sneaking out late at night with their pocket knives and scratch up the cars of the neighbours who had complained.
 - Butch and his friends felt very good about this plan.
 - Revenge seemed very satisfying to them.
 - But Junior spoke against the plan...
 - And that made Butch and his friends very angry with Junior—almost more angry than they were with the neighbours.
 - They were also concerned the Junior would tell on them.
 - Besides that, Butch was concerned that one of the neighbours had a video surveillance camera watching over their driveway.
 - But then Butch got a very clever idea...
 - Sometimes when a person is angry, they can be very clever about coming up with ways to take revenge.
 - Butch told his friends that he would sneak out with Junior's jacket and the big straw that he had and scratch up the car in front of the surveillance camera...
 - That way, everyone would think it was Junior!
 - The other two friends could each take the other two cars.
 - The plan worked!
 - Junior's parents were very horrified when they were told that their son had gone out in the night and damaged three cars in the neighbourhood...

- The boys told their parents that Junior was upset about the motor bikes, and had suggested the idea, and that they had tried to stop him...
- No one was sure of the story until they saw the video—there was Junior—or at least so they thought...
- Junior had to bear the shame of the wickedness of these boys even before his own parents...
 - The trust he had built with them over the years was broken.
 - It was a dreadful experience.
- That is something like what happened to our Lord Jesus when all our sins were charged to Him...
 - Of course there is one great difference—and that is that Jesus arranged beforehand to take our debt...
 - But in the Father’s workings, when He did take our debt and our shame,
 - He truly did take it in such a way that He became guilty before His heavenly Father so that the darkness of God’s wrath and judgement fully enveloped Him.

TRANS> This was the unspeakable suffering our Lord had to endure.

III. But now I want you to see how Matthew shows us that His suffering was not in vain...

- A. First, Matthew shows us that Jesus suffering was not in vain because He was able to complete it.
- How terrible it would have been if Jesus had not been able to satisfy the wrath of God toward our sin...
 - If He had taken it upon Himself and there had been no end to His sufferings!
 - But there was an end—the darkness did not go on—it lasted for three hours...
 1. During the three hours of darkness, it seems that He did not say a word...
 - He was consumed with anguish and grief under the Father’s wrath...
 - a. But after He had suffered all that the Father had appointed for Him,
 - He broke forth with the words,

- “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me...”
 - And I think He went on to pray all of what is revealed to us in Psalm 22, for that Psalm is clearly about our Lord’s meditations on the cross.
- b. This was His cry for deliverance...
- Jesus was, as I have shown you, offering Himself for our sins...
 - And so His cry for deliverance was a cry that God would accept His offering in behalf of the whole church...
 - just as the Lord had shown His acceptance of the offerings at the temple in the Old Testament...
2. And you can see both from Matthew and from Psalm 22 that the Lord heard His cry for deliverance.
- a. In Psalm 22, He cries for deliverance until you get to verse 21,
- and then He triumphantly declares,
 - “You have heard!”
 - The Father accepted His offering and His wrath is not lifted.
 - Verse 24 really brings this out when it says:
 - Ps 22:24: For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.
- b. In Matthew, there are three things that correspond with this lifting of the Father’s wrath...
- 1) First, the darkness that represented that wrath and accompanied it is removed.
 - The light returns around our Lord Jesus when the Father’s favour returns.
 - 2) Secondly, the Lord Jesus now receives refreshment...
 - See how He is given a drink of the soldier’s Gatorade—the watery sour wine that they drank for refreshment.
 - During the three hours he was under His Father’s wrath,
 - even a cool drink could have brought no comfort to Him...
 - But now, in receiving this, He shows that worst is over.
 - 3) And finally, we see Him, as Matthew says,
 - “Crying out with a loud voice and yielding up His spirit.”

- These words show us that His death was a voluntary act on His part...
 - The fact that He cried out with a loud voice shows that He was not yet at the point of exhaustion—He still had strength remaining...
 - And the fact that Matthew says “He yielded up His spirit” shows that his life was not taken from Him...
 - He did what none of us can do—He released His spirit from His body!
- This shows clearly that Jesus had finished bearing our sins...
 - For Jesus would not have yielded up His spirit until He had fulfilled all the suffering that the Father had appointed for Him...
 - Death itself was a humiliation for Him to be sure,
 - but now He is able to die under the Father’s favour and acceptance,
 - Now He not only had God’s personal favour restored,
 - but God’s favour for the whole sinful church that He represented!
 - The transaction is complete and Jesus is able to go to His grave in hope!

TRANS> And so you see first of all that Jesus’ suffering was not in vain because He was able to complete it—

- He was able to say, “It is finished.”
 - He had fully satisfied the Father’s justice and had fully borne the penalty of our sin.

B. Secondly, Matthew shows us that His suffering was not in vain because it brought about four great changes.

1. First, that His sufferings opened the way for sinners to come to God.
 - a. Matthew tells us that the great curtain at the temple that separated the holy place from the most holy place—
 - the place that only the high priest was allowed to enter once year, and only then with blood from a sacrifice...
 - was torn from top to bottom.
 - b. This is highly symbolic...
 - The curtain showed that we sinful worshippers could not come near to God, else His wrath would break out upon us.
 - When Jesus had completed His suffering for us,

- God's wrath had fully broken out upon Him...
 - And that meant that we no longer needed to approach from a distance on the other side of a veil in a temple made with man's hands...
 - It meant that we can come boldly and directly before God as those who are fully cleansed from our sins...
 - cleansed by the suffering sacrifice of Jesus Christ!
 - This is why we are so opposed to any worship now that puts a human priest between God and man...
 - In New Testament worship, we hear directly and pray with a united voice and we are heard through Christ...
 - There are no more earthly altars or sacrifices or veils or intermediaries...
 - Christ has opened the way—all has been done—and we will not dishonour Him by putting up barriers between us and God!
- c. This is a huge change...
- Take advantage of this marvellous change!
 - Draw near with a pure heart in full assurance of faith, having your heart sprinkled from an evil conscience by the blood of Jesus!
 - There is now acceptance with God for all who believe!
2. Secondly, by Jesus' sufferings the curse upon the ground was judicially broken.
- a. Matthew tells us of a great earthquake that even split the rocks that occurred after Jesus had completed His sufferings!
 - b. We saw before with the crown of thorns that Jesus bore the curse that was put on creation—on the ground...
 - By His death, the power of that curse was broken...
 - The earth felt its shackles loosened!
 - Now we have a sure hope that at God's appointed time,
 - there will be no more curse upon the ground and upon our work...
 - the earth will submit to us without resistance...
 - Storms and famines will not destroy,
 - thorns will not prick our fingers,
 - And the earth will yield its increase without resistance or difficulty.

3. Thirdly, by Jesus' sufferings the hope of the resurrection was secured.
 - a. Matthew tells us that after Jesus' offering was accepted, graves were opened and some of the saints were raised...
 - We are not given a lot of detail...
 - perhaps it was those who had recently died that were raised up as Lazarus had been only a short time before this...
 - perhaps they were able to resume their lives in this world that death had interrupted...
 - We are not given all the details...
 - b. But whatever the case,
 - this was surely to show that Jesus, by His suffering, had obtained the keys of death and Hades...
 - that it was by His work on the cross that we have the promise that our bodies will rise again to live.
 - And of course, when this is fulfilled at the last day, it will be to die no more.
4. And fourthly, Matthew shows us that Jesus, by His suffering, opened the way for the Gentiles to come to God...
 - a. The Roman centurion and some of the men who were with him bore witness to all that transpired when Jesus died...
 - They saw the regal bearing of Jesus in His suffering...
 - They saw the darkness, they saw the way He died, and they saw the earthquake...
 - It was enough for them to declare with confidence:
 - "Truly this was the Son of God."

TRANS> The plain truth that the Jews could not see, these pagan Romans could now see!

- b. We do not know for sure how deeply this confession went,
 - but it is certainly representative of something very great that happened as a result of Jesus' death...
 - The way of salvation was opened to the nations.
 - Isaiah spoke of God's promise to give the nations to His Son in Isaiah 49:6:

- Isaiah 49:6 Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'
- Now that Jesus had suffered and died,
 - people from every nation would begin to come to find life in Him.
 - And so here we are today—in Canada, calling upon His name and declaring Him to be the Son of God.

Conclusion:

Jesus' suffering goes far beyond the reach of our understanding...

- We cannot comprehend what it was the holy, spotless Son of God to be cast off as an unclean thing by His Father...
 - But let us know with all certainty that His suffering was not in vain...
 - Let us be persuaded that it is through His pain that we are able be reconciled to God and have eternal life.
 - Christian, what confidence you can have when you consider who it is that has taken your place to bear God's judgment for you!
 - Let us all hate our sins with a greater hatred and love our Saviour with a greater love who has loved us so well.