

Message Study Guide

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on thorncreek.church/live)

Warming up

1. Were you ever disappointed when you didn't get a gift you wanted for Christmas?

Digging Deeper & Application

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. How do you process suffering?
 - a. Here's the good news...There's no suffering you will face in this world that your Savior hasn't known...and He cares about you! Does this bring you comfort?
3. The prophet Isaiah spoke to Judah during a very difficult time. Assyria was about to invade and take over Israel. In the midst of this very dark time, a faithful servant of God is introduced. Please read Isaiah 50:1-6. What does verse six mean to you and what is it talking about?
4. One bible scholar put it this way, "Notice instead of saying men beat Him, He says "I gave" indicating His voluntary submission, His willingness to suffer. Normal men would have been provoked to fight back or resist, but Jesus was just the opposite even in the face of what was excessively vile treatment. All four Gospels record various aspects of the fulfillment of this prophecy (Mt 26:67; 27:26, 30; Mk 14:65; 15:19; Lk 22:63-65; Jn 18:22). In spite of the ignominious treatment Jesus fulfilled this prophecy by remaining submissive to His Father's will."
 - a. Compare Christ's suffering with Isaiah 52:14.
5. What does Deitrich Bonhoeffer's quote mean to you? "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." What does it mean to "die" to yourself?
6. Some scholars believe there are more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. These prophecies are specific enough that the mathematical probability of Jesus fulfilling even a handful of them, let alone all of them, is staggeringly improbable—if not impossible. This is one of many prophecies that was fulfilled. Please read Matthew 27:26-31.

7. Can you handle it when you've been there for everyone else, and there is no one there for you?

8. What did Jesus say in John 15:18-20?

9. Dr. J. Robert Clinton said, "Never trust a leader who doesn't walk with a limp." What does this mean to you? Please read, 1 Peter 4:12-14, and compare it with Dr. Sam Chand's quote, "You'll grow only to the threshold of your pain."

10. Close by reading, Isaiah 53:1-7. Does this verse have more meaning to you? Why or why not?

Application

Below are some of the points shared in the message. Discuss how they apply to your life.

- There's no suffering you will face in this world that your Savior hasn't known...and He cares about you.
- "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship*
- If you want to REALLY KNOW Christ...you have to die first.
 - You have to die to your will.
 - You have to die to your pride.
 - You have to die to ...

- 12 Dear friends, don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. 13 Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world. 1 Peter 4:12-13 (NLT)