



AN Overcoming HOPE

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MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE

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A Mockery of Human Justice Framed Jesus's Majestic Purpose
Mark 14:53-15:20

Jesus' trial was engineered by God to defeat evil and reconcile humanity.

Acts 2:22-23 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man **attested to you by God** with mighty works and wonders and signs **that God did through him** in your midst, as you yourselves know—
23 this Jesus, **delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God**, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

Col. 1:19-22 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 **and through him to reconcile to himself all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, **making peace by the blood of his cross**. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death**, in order **to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him...**

The trial of Jesus displayed the spectrum of human betrayal and viciousness.

1. The council, driven by **envy**, conspired to murder of the Son of God (Mark 14:55-60)

2. Peter, overwhelmed by **fear**, abandoned his loving friend (Mark 14:67-72)

Mark 14:29,31 Peter said to him, "Even though they all fall away, I will not...If I must die with you, I will not deny you."

3. The crowd's **resentment** over unmet expectations favored a murderer over the Lord of Life (Mark 15:11-14)

Acts 3:13b-14 "the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. 14 But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you..."

4. Pilate's **cynical** self-interest condemned the Righteous One to pacify the mob (Mark 15:12-15)

5. The Roman soldiers, full of **contempt**, brutally humiliated God's Anointed King (Mark 15:16-20)

Throughout the trial, Jesus faced every evil with majestic serenity and single-minded focus.

1. He refused to defend himself to a corrupt court (Mark 14:61a)

2. He proclaimed his identity, ensuring his path to the cross (Mark 14:62)

3. He prepared Peter for repentance (Mark 14:72)

4. He accepted the unjust sentence of crucifixion by his own people and Pilate in silence

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

5. He received the soldier's mockery and abuse without retaliation

1 Peter 2:23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

Jesus endured human evil so we can experience invincible hope in a hostile world.

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, 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. 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Do you see yourself in any of the participants in Jesus's trial? Do envy, fear, resentment, cynicism, or contempt significantly characterize your life?
2. What is your general attitude toward suffering? When you face suffering of any kind, what is the pattern of your response? Do you long for the serenity Jesus exhibited in the face of suffering and evil?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. Consider/discuss how we are empowered to share in the suffering and death of Christ in our bodies as a means of revealing the life of Jesus to the watching world (see also Philippians 3:8-11). In your present suffering (large or small) how can you show and experience the life of Jesus?
4. Read 1 Peter 2:20-25. Jesus's chosen plight was given as an example for when we face unjust suffering. Do you really believe you too can face suffering without sin and with serenity? In what way can you "consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself" so as to not grow weary or fainthearted in your present and future suffering?
5. Review Hebrews 12:1-3. What is it about looking at Jesus (i.e. intently and exclusively focusing your thoughts upon) that prevents us from growing "weary or fainthearted"? Write down/share aspects of Jesus's freely chosen plight that address past or present suffering in your own life.

SONGS

"Raise A Hallelujah" - Jake Stevens, Jonathan Helser, Melissa Helser, and Molly Skaggs

"How Great is Our God" - Chris Tomlin

"Rock Of Ages" - Thomas Hastings and Augustus Montague Toplady

"Man Of Sorrows" - Philip Paul Bliss and Roger Jones

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$19,967.90

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$319,881.46

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$387,992.00