

“Journey with Jesus to the Cross”

John 12:11-36

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If we are going to journey with Jesus to the cross, we must...

- 1. Understand in God’s Kingdom, death equals life.
(verses 24-26)**

“As someone has written, death is the only way out of any world in which we are. The newborn baby dies a death to the safe, warm life of the womb. The reborn Christian forsakes the old life, ‘dies’ to it, and receives the life of Christ in its place. The surrender of one’s will—what could be more certainly a death? But it is the condition of receiving God’s will, God’s life, God’s joy.”

Elizabeth Elliot, *A Path Through Suffering: Discovering the Relationship Between God’s Mercy and Our Plan*, Servant Publications, Ann Arbor Michigan, 1990, p. 23.

- 2. Understand in God’s Kingdom, suffering is to be expected and accepted. (verse 27)**

“Coming to Christ means more suffering, not less, in this world. I am persuaded that suffering is normal and not exceptional. We all suffer; we all must suffer...”

John Piper, “Counseling with Suffering People”
The Journal of Biblical Counseling, Winter 2003, p. 18.

“Suffering will come to believers. It must come. It is part of our calling. In Philippians 1:29, Paul tells the entire church in Philippi, ‘To you it has been granted for Christ’s sake not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.’ This is a gift from God to all believers. We are appointed to suffer. ‘You yourselves know that we have been destined for this’ (1 Thess. 3:3)...For the glory of God to be manifest in our lives, we must rejoice in suffering rather than murmur and complain.”

John Piper, “Counseling with Suffering People”
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3. Understand in God’s Kingdom, glorifying God’s name is to be our motivation. (verse 28)

Questions to ponder:

Am I willing to walk with Jesus to the cross?

What does walking with Jesus to the cross mean for me?

Jesus took the “cup.” Will I take it?

Reflection:

“‘You don’t know what you are asking,’ Jesus said to them. ‘Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?’ ‘We can,’ they answered.”

Matthew 20:22

“Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.’”

Matthew 26:39