



ALL THAT HE SUFFERED

SERIES REFLECTION QUESTIONS



PART 1: "Bitter Sweet"

Key Scriptures: Romans 4:4-8, 24-25; Romans 6:23; Luke 1:76-77

- 1. Embracing the Bitter Sweet:** Look back at a time in your life that was initially difficult (bitter), but ultimately resulted in spiritual strength, perspective, or a deeper capacity for worship? How did God use the bitter time to reveal the sweet?
- 2. Exposing the Scheme:** In what ways do you see the enemy using "shame or sin consciousness" to make people run *away* from God, rather than allowing an awareness of sin to highlight God's overwhelming love and goodness?
- 3. The Danger of Ignoring the Bitter:** Why is it dangerous for a Christian to try to enjoy the "sweetness" of the blessings and benefits of walking with God without ever coming to grips with the "bitterness" of our own sin and the brutal price Christ paid?
- 4. Admitting Spiritual Bankruptcy:** We cannot *truly* appreciate freedom or redemption without acknowledging bondage. Our perfect, sinless Jesus took the worst punishment we deserved so we wouldn't have to, and without Him we are "spiritually bankrupt". Why is this important for worship, gratitude and devotion to God?
- 5. The Right Lens:** Even after salvation, we must be able to repent and deal with our sin – seeing it as something good, grace-filled and love-based, meant to build us up, not depress, condemn, or tear us down. Why is it important to maintain the ability to turn to God and face the "bitter" reality of our sin?

PART 2: "All That He Suffered" (A)

Key Scriptures: Matthew 26:36-38; Mark 15:15

- 1. Anguish of the Spirit & Soul:** Jesus' suffering did not begin at the cross; it started in His soul at Gethsemane as He anticipated the weight of what was coming - to the point that His body began to bleed due to the stress. Why is it important for us to recognize the *emotional* and *spiritual* agony Jesus endured before a single physical blow was struck? How might the angst and emotional toll He battled through give you strength when battling anxiety?
- 2. The Pain of Isolation & Betrayal:** Jesus experienced the crushing disappointment and relational betrayal of His closest friends falling asleep when He needed them most, betrayal and the disciples' abandonment. When you experience personal heartbreak and betrayal, how does knowing that Jesus understands that pain comfort you?

- 3. The Humility of Submission:** Through all of the spiritual and emotional pain, Jesus chose to deny His own human will to submit to the Father's assignment. When following God's plan is unfair, painful and requires "dying to self", what spiritual practices or truths do you lean on to help you say, *"Not my will, but Yours be done"*?

PART 3: "All That He Suffered" (B)

Key Scriptures: Psalm 22:14-15; Isaiah 53:3-12; Mark 15:15

- 1. The Injustice of the Trials:** Jesus walked from location to location, publicly lied about, mocked, and wrongly convicted, yet He chose not to defend Himself, retaliate or call down angels. What does Jesus' silence and restraint teach us about true spiritual strength and trusting God as our ultimate vindicator?
- 2. The Weight of Physical Brutality:** Isaiah 53 states that *"it was the will of the Lord to crush Him."* From being slapped and spat on, to the torturous flogging that tore His flesh to the bone, to the crown of thorns beaten into His head, to the physical exhaustion of walking thousands of yards, Jesus' body was utterly broken. He was laid on the ground with His body open from the wounds, and affixed to the cross with nails. By design, the entire process was inexplicably BRUTAL.
 - How does rehearsing its raw, graphic reality impact how you see the special importance of the relationship with God that the crucifixion of Christ provided?

PART 4: "Why So Severe?"

Key Scriptures: Psalm 22; Isaiah 50:6; Psalm 97:10; Colossians 3:5; Jude 23

- 1. The Standard of Prophetic Accuracy:** The details of Jesus' suffering—down to the piercing of His hands, the pulling of His beard, and the casting of lots for His clothes—were foretold centuries in advance, and fulfilled at a rate that only God could accomplish (statistically impossible). How does this impact your trust in the sovereignty of God, the reality of Christ, and God's work to fulfill His promises in your own life?
- 2. God's Holy Hatred for Sin:** The brutal, bloody, and gruesome way God chose to deal with sin on the cross illustrates His hatred for it because of its deathly effect on God's creation. If the cross shows us how judiciously God deals with sin, what should our personal disposition be toward it in our daily lives?
- 3. Separating Identity from Sin:** Donnie McClurkin once said, *"We must hate sin, even if it is in us."* It is hard to deal brutally with our flesh because we often mistake our sin for our *true* identity. How can you practice "putting to death what is earthly in you" (Colossians 3:5) while simultaneously holding onto the truth that sin is *not* who you are, but the primary tool YOUR enemy wants to use to destroy and violate you?