10/6/2024

GOD, WHY?

PART IV: JESUS UNDERSTANDS

Matthew 27:27-31; 35-46 (NLT). They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head... Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. 35 After they had nailed him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. Then they sat around and kept guard as he hung there...The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, if you are the Son of God, save yourself and come down from the cross!" The leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him! He trusted God, so let God rescue him now if he wants him! For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" Even the revolutionaries who were crucified with him ridiculed him in the same way. At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Joni Eareckson Tada: "God wrote a book of suffering, and his name is Jesus."

REMEMBER: Jesus not only understands your pain, He is interceding for you so that your faith does not waver when you face the storms of life.

John 17:15-20 (NLT). I'm not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth. Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message.

JESUS INTERCEDES FOR ME. THAT IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY:

1. I WOULD FIND [PEACE] IN HIS PRESENCE.

The world cannot give you the peace your soul seeks - only Jesus can.

John 14:27 (NLT). "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

See also John 16:33

2. I WOULD FIND [STRENGTH] IN HIS SUFFERING.

Philippians 3:10-11 (NLT). I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

The storms and difficulties of life allow us to access the resurrection power of Jesus.

See also Hebrews 12:1b-4

3. I WOULD FIND [HEALING] IN HIS WOUNDS.

1 Peter 2:24 (NIV). "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

We cannot add anything to the suffering of Jesus, but I can find healing when I join my pain to His pain, my suffering to His suffering, and in His pain and in His suffering, I find my hope, I find my healing, and I find my redemption because Jesus broke the power of sin, sickness and death over our lives!

See also Revelation 21:3-4

