



Jesus and the Wound of Suffering

Matthew 26:36-46

We know what suffering is, don't we?

To lie awake at night with thoughts that won't slow down.

To carry emotional pain that we haven't figured out how to name.

To feel overwhelmed, exhausted, or afraid.

To feel unsure at times how to even pray.

Some live with chronic pain; others with intrusive thoughts that arrive uninvited and refuse to leave.

The question isn't whether we suffer. The question is where God is in our suffering. That's why the story of Jesus in Gethsemane matters. It shows us not a God that stands aloof and unmoved, but a God who willingly enters suffering and meets us there.

Jesus' suffering in Gethsemane shows us Who God is. It shows that:

God has always been near to the brokenhearted.

Israel's ancient king David put it this way: "*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit*" (Psalm 34:18).

In Gethsemane, what was once veiled becomes visible:

God's nearness to human suffering.

Which means that despite appearances to the contrary, God is near to your suffering now.

In Jesus, God stepped into our suffering and drank the cup.

Each Gospel paints Gethsemane with different brushstrokes.

Matthew shows Jesus overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Mark uses words charged with emotion: “deeply distressed and troubled.”

Luke tells us His sweat fell like great drops of blood.

The very word *Gethsemane* means “oil press”—a place of crushing.

Before Jesus’ body was wounded, suffering crushed His soul.

And the God who drank the cup will one day empty it forever.

Gethsemane is where the story begins—but it does not end there!

Because of Christ’s suffering, what awaits those who trust in Him can be summed up in two words: **no more**. No more tears. No more death. No more mourning. No more crying. No more pain.

Until that day, we hold this hope in our bodies through the sign of ashes—reminding us that we are weak, and that it is not a failure to be weak. That we are mortal, yet our mortality will one day be swallowed up by life. That we suffer now, but, as the apostle Peter reminds us, these sufferings cannot compare with the glory that is to be revealed.

Tonight, we don't rush to Easter—but we don't forget about it either. I invite you to hold this phrase during our Lenten journey: “This is not the end of the story.”