

**11-3-19 Message**  
**CONSIDER OUR LORD'S EXAMPLE OF ENDURANCE**

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

**CONSIDER HIM AS AN EXAMPLE OF ENDURANCE**

Thursday night we had Brother Charlie Jewell come and give a report about the work in Central African Republic. Right now there is war raging in that country and certain parts of the country are dangerous. He shared how churches are being burned and many Christians are being killed. CAR is one of the unhealthiest countries in the world. Yet with all the unrest, Brother Jewell has stayed there and been faithful for over 30 years. The problem is that he is getting older and there is no one to take his place. Charlie shared how there are less and less people surrendering to go to the mission field. Especially places like the CAR.

The biggest problem I see in the church today is the lack of people who are willing to endure hardness for the Lord. We see this everywhere.

Now let us start where we are. Are you willing to endure hardness for the Lord? He that is faithful in least will be faithful in much. If we cannot be faithful where we are, how can we succeed somewhere else?

Why has Pastor Bissol remained at the Elkdale Baptist Church for 36 years? It is because I reasoned that it is my job to figure out how to be fruitful where God put me and not look for greener pastures. I must look at the opportunities He has given me and use them for the Lord and not complain about what I do not have but use what God has given me.

II Timothy 2:3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

Paul, trying to encourage his readers to remain steadfast in the Lord, says this:

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

I want to focus in on this statement.

**CONSIDER HIM WHO ENDURED IN SO MANY AREAS AS AN EXAMPLE TO US!**

Is there any greater example of endurance than that of our Lord Jesus. Paul said, consider Jesus when you are tempted to faint in your own mind.

Paul said we will be tempted to faint, get downhearted, get discouraged in this life. I mean, if you look at the trials, the difficulties, that we face or may face in this life, you could get awfully discouraged.

Maybe you are faced with financial trials.  
Maybe you are faced with people conflicts.  
Maybe you are faced with physical problems.  
Maybe you are looking at family conflicts and difficulties.  
Maybe you have some children who are not living for the Lord.  
Maybe you are having work related problems.

The Bible says Consider Him who endured in every area of life. He was tempted like us.

Hebrews 4:15: but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus walked in our shoes.  
Jesus knew what it was to have problems in this life.  
Jesus understood our difficulties.

It says in all points he was tempted like us.

Jesus was a carpenter Mark 6:3 He knew the difficulties of working with His hands.

Jesus understood family conflicts, He had brothers and sisters that at times didn't see eye to eye with Him.  
John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.

This morning I want to talk about how Jesus was an example to us of spiritual endurance.

### ***I. FIRST OF ALL, HE ENDURED PEOPLE CONFLICTS.***

The Bible says He had to deal with contradiction of sinners against Himself.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Sometimes the hardest things to deal with are people problems.

Some of the things that people say and do can really grate on you and just make you lose a lot of sleep. I don't think Jesus was affected at all.

Jesus was being constantly attacked by people. They laid in wait to catch something He said wrong.

I mean if Jesus were alive today, they would be listening to all His phone conversations.

They would be checking His emails and tweets to scrutinize everything He said.

They would have secret closed meetings to discuss strategies on how they could get rid of Him.

Why in secret? Because they feared the people, so they had to do it in secret.

They came up with questions that there were no right answer to.

No matter how He answered, He would be wrong.

The real reason they were mad at Him was because He was not a respecter of persons and He exposed their hypocrisies. He told it like it is, and exposed them for what they were.

Was there anyone who had more enemies than our Lord?

Was there anyone who had more people out to destroy them like Jesus?

Notice this instance in Matthew 22:15:

Matthew 22:15 Then went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk.

Matthew 22:16 And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any man: for thou regardest not the person of men.

Matthew 22:17 Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?

This next verse wraps up why they hate our Lord:

***Matthew 22:18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?***

Then He answered,

Matthew 22:19 Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

Matthew 22:20 And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription?

Matthew 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Matthew 22:22 When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way.

I don't know about you, but when I am faced with people problems and conflicts usually two days after an incident I can think of what I should say, but not the Lord He knew the answers immediately.

John 8 is another famous incident where they tried to entice Jesus to get into trouble.

John 8:2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

John 8:4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

John 8:5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

John 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

Jesus wisely exposed their hypocrisy. Again if he said not to stone her he could be accused of violating Scripture, if he said stone her he could be accused before the Romans of taking the law into his own hands. Jesus acted like he did not even hear them. Why is it the woman was there but the man was not? So he said to the men, he who is without sin. I think this same sin, let him cast the first stone.

Sometimes the best way to deal with people conflicts is to let your critics alone:

Matthew 15:12 Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying?

Matthew 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Do you know sometimes we deal with things and people that the Lord says we should just let them alone. The truth is that I try to think biblically. The world is so out of sync with biblical thinking that the world's mindset is as far as the east from the west from what the Bible says. This is obvious, just look at the by product of the world.

Jesus said,

Matthew 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them....

The greatest fruit are our children.

Right now we are pumping out a generation of children who do not know how to work, are lazy, self centered, immoral, have no sense of keeping their word or sacrificing for anything.

Don't waste your time with people who will not hear the Scripture. God did not call us to strive and argue with unbelievers.

## ***II. CONSIDER HOW HE ENDURED PHYSICAL SUFFERING.***

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Each of us are going to suffer in this life physically. There is no pleasant way to die. The Bible says, it is appointed unto every man once to die. I have visited many people who were on their death bed and I have yet to see any pleasant way to pass over. Maybe we as Christians should not be afraid to die, but I don't know about you, I am not looking forward to the process.

Now there some more painful ways to die than others. Out of all the ways to die, crucifixion has to be the worse. Jesus suffered that kind of death for you and me.

SPIT ON HIM.

SOLDIERS MOCKED HIM.

CROWD DERIDED HIM.

PHARISEES MOCKED HIM.

THE THIEVES MOCKED HIM.

HE WAS BRUISED AND AFFLICTED TO PAY FOR OUR SINS.

It was not only a painful death, it was a shameful death. Most people who die, die in a private room with only a few close relatives at their side. He died being mocked in public disgrace. Was there any worse form of death?

I visited many people in hospice, I've seen the struggle many people go through when they leave this world. But Jesus did not have those comforts, nor was he nursed and helped and comforted in those last moments. When he was dying they gave him vinegar to drink. When they checked to see if he was still alive they pierced his side.

He knows what it is to suffer physically.

So take heart our Lord truly understands your afflictions.

## ***III. HE ENDURED ABANDONMENT AND BETRAYAL.***

Matthew 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

Did not Peter deny the Lord three times?  
All of the disciples fled when He gave Himself up to be arrested.

What is interesting is that they would have gladly taken up sword and fought. They could not find it in themselves to just be taken.

Not only was He abandoned He was betrayed by one of his inner circle.

Luke 22:48 But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

Matthew 26:50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

#### ***IV. CONSIDER THIS MORNING WHAT YOU HAVE ENDURED AND YOU WILL REALIZE YOU COME UP SHORT.***

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

What blood have we shed?  
What pain have we borne?  
What sacrifices have we made?  
What torture have we undergone?

So many, in the day that we live, cannot be inconvenienced even a little bit for the Lord.

Just what is your level of commitment to the Lord? How committed are you to the things of the Lord? I see so many people chasing the American dream and so few chasing the Eternal Prize. I often think if we could ever see what the Lord is thinking about the things we cry and whimper about we would be shocked.

A few weeks back one of my grandkids was crying because his siblings didn't give him a point in a little game they were playing. I said why are you crying? It is only a game. In a few short years we are going to realize that everything in this life was temporary, and it was the eternal things that were real.

The American Dream is just that, it is a dream and when we wake up on the other side of eternity, we will be in the real world. Suddenly will we realize we squandered away opportunities to lay up treasure and reward in heaven because we sought a more comfortable life here on earth? Why are we worried about being comfortable in our temporal abode?

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Galatians 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

How many funerals do we have to attend before we get it through our thick skulls that someday it will be our funeral that others will be attending? We can see it in others but why do we not recognize it in our own lives?

I recently heard a hunter tell me that he has seen a deer stand right next to another deer which was shot and is oblivious to the fact that a hunter is looking at him. That is most people when they go to a funeral. The Bible says, the living should take it to heart but I fear most people leave no better for what they heard at the funeral. Are we living our lives to prepare to meet God someday? Most people are not.

If you want to have no regrets in eternity, learn the secret to being successful for eternity. The answer is to endure. Finish your course. Be consistent. Don't give up. Fight the fight. Be faithful to what God wants you to do.

Jesus left us a perfect example. He was faithful unto death. Do we have the same mindset that He had? What is your level of commitment to the Lord? God told the church at Smyrna to be faithful unto death.

REV 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

What stripes have we born, what suffering have we gone through, what pain have we been afflicted with? We have no excuse why we cannot endure for the Lord.