



Personal & Group Study Guide: March 27, 2022

Message Series: The Purpose of Pain: How Jesus Makes Sense of Our Suffering

Message Title: CRUELTY (Part 4)

Series Intro: Why does God allow pain and suffering? Why do bad things happen to good people? Whether you're a believer or a skeptic, these questions are near to all our hearts. With this series, we'll explore these questions in pursuit of God's Truth.

What is cruelty, and what is unique about the kind of pain it causes?

Why do cruel people often dehumanize their victims?

Have you experienced the kind of humiliation that is caused by someone's else's cruelty? How did you handle it?

Read Matthew 27:27-31. List the examples of cruelty that Jesus endured.

3 Ways Jesus Overcame Cruelty and Humiliation

1. Jesus _____ Cruelty

What clues do we have that Jesus saw this cruelty coming? (See Matt. 20:17-19)

How did Jesus' teachings in Matt. 5:38:42 *anticipate* the cruelty he later endured?

2. Jesus _____ Cruelty

How did Jesus absorb cruelty without becoming a coward - and without becoming cruel?

How would your life change if you were able to absorb people's cruelty like Jesus did? (See Philippians 2:5-8)

3. Jesus _____ Cruelty

What's the difference between forgiving someone's cruelty and excusing it?

How did Jesus demonstrate amazing grace as he died on the cross (see Luke 23:34), and how did his grace change at least one soldier's heart (see Mark 15:39)?

What do you find particularly challenging about dealing with the cruelty of others like Jesus did? What (if anything) do you need to change about yourself in order to overcome the pain caused by cruelty and humiliation?