



Building Wholehearted Disciples of Jesus

Responding To A Troubled Soul

Teacher: Ryan Styre

'Responding to a Troubled Soul'

What do we do with our trouble, fear, stress or anxiety?

- I have spoken with many of you and see the prayer emails from our members and we do not lack for trouble or worry. I know many of your stories and what you are facing, the battles you are waging:
 - Divorce
 - Depression
 - Job loss
 - Cancer
 - Finances
 - Suicide or the death of a loved one

How do we face these kinds of trouble? What is our response to the distress life hurls at us?

Jesus instructs His disciples in **John 14:1** *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me....."*

But just two chapters before, Jesus Himself admits He is dealing with a troubled soul (John 12).

- The point He is making is:
Do not let trouble overwhelm your SOUL!

What is our 'Soul' and how does it play into the physiological makeup of our parts?

- Your Soul = your mind + your will + your emotions.
 - It is your central processing unit to your being.
 - Your *Body, Soul* and *Spirit* but your **Soul** processes what is happening to you.
- **John 12: 27-28** "The benefits of Sonship" - what we have access to as Sons and Daughters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

- In the following passage, Jesus will model how He deals with His troubled soul.

John 12:27-28 ²⁷ *“Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came!* ²⁸ *Father, bring glory to your name.”* - (NKJV)

- This is such an honest moment in the humanity of Jesus!
- The Son of God has a ‘troubled’ soul. He is grieving because He knows that His appointment with the cross is directly in front of Him.
- The Word became flesh (**John 1:14**) AND He is troubled!!!
 - **“Troubled”** – *distressed, full of heaviness, greatly afflicted, stirred, agitated.*
- Since He was born, Jesus has had a death sentence hanging over His head!
- If God Himself was troubled, we are not exempt from this problem as followers of the faith!
- Christianity is NOT a cross-less faith; we will have trials and should expect to have them, not in a masochistic way, but so that we are not surprised by them.

♣ **1Peter 4:12** ¹² *“Dear friends, don’t be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. ¹³ Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world.”* (NLT)

♣ **Christianity:** is the only religion in World History, that at the center of its faith is the humiliation, pain, suffering and death of its own God. We are also the

only religion whose God has resurrected from the dead!

We know we all have troubles and are not exempt from worry and the stress of this world.

- What posture do we take in these moments?
- Where does our heart point or align?
- Is our initial response to trouble PRAYER?
- Do we take it to a friend or spouse first?
- Perhaps we try Google over God first!?!

Jesus shows us two responses:

John 12: 27 (a) – “Now My soul is troubled, and what should I say? Father, save me from this hour”?..... -(NKJV)

- 1st Response from Jesus is: “Lord save me!”
 - ‘SAVE’ here is translated in the Greek is pronounced ‘SOZO’
 - **SOZO**= immediate rescue / deliver now/ keep safe from danger /healing.
 - A very natural reaction to have in this moment, "save me from this horrible thing!" Who cannot relate to this kind of honesty?
 - ♣ We all want this, it is our nature but maybe it is not God’s purpose for us at that time?
 - I agree that we should pray for this in our lives, we pray for ‘SOZO’! Healing now / Help now / Save me now. Now is the day of salvation!
 - ♣ He hears our prayers and He answers our prayers but often not in the way we think He should or might expect.
 - ♣ Often times it is a ‘Now & But Not Yet’ – it is a process.

- ♣ You said that prayer in faith and the Lord does something and you walk in faith knowing that He met you but it is a process to that promise.
- ♣ Many of us are in 'process' at this moment and process is okay.
- ♣ We are all being transformed from glory to glory and more in His image.

John 12:27 (b) – “But for this purpose I came to this hour.”

- 2nd Response from Jesus: ‘This is the hour I was meant for.’
 - There is purpose for this hour and Jesus steps into the trouble; He positions His soul and steps into this purpose!
 - He does not step away from it or try to maneuver around it.
 - ♣ In general, most of us will try to find a way around or side step these moments of trouble in our life rather than face them initially.
 - ♣ It is not wrong to feel this about our troubles; Jesus is feeling this way about His horrible situation.
 - ♣ **The difference is that Jesus recognizes this particular trouble as His purpose!**
 - ♣ More times than not, we feel that this horrible thing or situation stands in the way of our ‘purpose’.
 - ♣ Sometimes, the reality of this is that the trouble we face is part of our purpose!

John 12: 28 (a) – “Father, glorify Your name.”

- Jesus steps into His trouble by praying to the Father: “Father, glorify your name”!!!

- This *trouble* is BIGGER than me and it is not about me, it is about bringing GLORY to the name of the Father.
- Your life is not about you. Your life is bigger than you; it has purpose, and its purpose is for the Glory of God!
- Something BIGGER is going on than our trouble and God is going to use it to glorify His name!
- Jesus is saying “I exist for the GLORY of God!” This ultimately mattered more to Him than His suffering.
- God is going to use this situation or trouble to glorify His name.

Heaven’s Response to Jesus’ prayer:

- **John 12: 28 (b) - Then a voice came from heaven, saying, “I have both glorified it and will glorify it again.”**
 - The Father responds to His son’s prayer and unifies His heart with the Son.
 - Heaven’s perspective of Jesus’s trouble is this: “the things you are facing, I am going to use again to bring glory to the earth.”
 - Essentially God is saying, “I’m taking you from glory to glory!”
 - *Glory to Glory – concept of “kavod”*
 - The **Hebrew** word kavod (K-V-D) has meant "importance", "weight", "deference" or “heaviness,” but primarily kavod means “**glory**,” “respect,” “honor” and “majesty.” In translating the **Hebrew Bible**, the Greek word used is δόξα, a word also appearing extensively in the New Testament, which was originally written in Greek.

There is deliverance in this for us, for our souls, because we can anchor ourselves in the name, strength, power and might of His Glory and rise above our troubles!

- It lifts you above what you are going through.
- It renews your mind!
- It brings alignment to your heart!
- Externally things may not change.
- Internally, trouble is dealt with because God's Glory, supremacy, majesty, weight (***kavod***) and the reality of who He is for me and in me begins to transform me.
- We become thankful for the trouble, because it changed us and grew us!
- The world sees this in us and they wonder how is he/she dealing with that; why are they not consumed by the burden or grief?
- We hear the Father saying, 'the things you're facing, the trouble you have, I will use it to bring ***glory*** to My name!'

♣ This is the posture we see in Jesus.

♣ This should be the position of our souls and context of our prayers to Heaven!

- In our weakness, we are made strong ***".....let the weak say and I am strong!"*** – Joel 3:10
 - ♣ An example is Paul's thorn in the flesh.
- We do not boast in our strengths..... we boast in the Lord in spite of what we are going through!
- We wait while our faith is built in the perfect timing of the Father's glory being revealed in our troubles – both in us and through us!

John 14:30-31 ³⁰ "I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, ³¹ but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father...." – (NLT)

Our prayer should be:

“Father – You are my source, You are my hope and You are going to bring GLORY to Your name through this situation in my life! Glorify your name in it, oh King of Kings and Lord of Lords!!!”