

Experience Life with Promise

Jesus suffered incredible humiliation when He decided that His passionate love for you and me was the most important thing on His mind. Jesus' humiliation included public rejection. Have you ever tried to convince someone you were telling the truth, but no one would believe you? When Jesus came to this world He said, "I am the Messiah!" He was telling everyone, "I am God in human flesh. I am the answer to your struggles and sin." But for the most part people did not listen.

Jesus was resisted. Many simply did not want to listen to anything He had to say. They had a preconceived notion in their minds about what the Messiah would be like, and when Jesus did not fit into their picture, they resisted anything He had to say.

Jesus was ridiculed. People actually said, "We want Barabbas." Jesus, the Son of God, the would-be-Savior of these people, stood there and heard them say that they wanted a murdered instead of Him.

Jesus was God in human flesh. Jesus was the Creator of the world. Jesus had and still has the power to snuff out the existence of Satan and every one of us, because we have at one time or another followed Satan. Yet, Jesus endured the humiliation.

When I think about this, it becomes even more meaningful to me when Jesus, on the cross, said, "It is finished." The humiliation was finally over.

I am not trying to downplay the suffering Jesus went through, nor am I trying to downplay anyone else's suffering, but when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the day we call Palm Sunday, and the people sang His praises, He was fully aware of what was about to happen in the upcoming week. He knew it was necessary, and He knew that eventually it would be over. It would be finished. And that is our promise too. The humiliation is short-lived.

Della Reese said, "I always believe where I'm going is so much more exciting than where I've been." That's great, but what about where we are now? As Christians, we talk a lot about heaven and how great it will be and how it will be a time when we will no longer have pain or suffering, but what about today? We are still alive and living on this earth. We are trying to live Christ like lives, but people don't always understand our convictions. Where is the good news that's designed to give us the courage we need to make it through 80 years, give or take, on this earth?

Here is what you can do. First, remember that God sees and He is familiar with your suffering. Let's also remember that God relates to our suffering. When you feel the humiliation just remember, God has walked in your shoes! You will never have any reason for being able to say to God, "You don't understand. You don't get it." God does understand. God does get it. So, don't be afraid to talk to Him about it. Then, you can be assured that God reacts to your suffering. Maybe not according to your time schedule, but He does answer prayer.

Roy Goodlet is a retired minister and a member of Murphy Church of Christ. Email him at royfcc@yahoo.com.