

to Jerusalem riding on a donkey and all of the people were shouting "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" But just one week later, these same people were shouting, "Crucify Him!" as seen in **Matthew 27**. For three years, Jesus did nothing but good for all of these people. He healed the sick and He taught them the very words of God. He showed them the way to heaven and offered mercy and hope to a world that was dying in sin and darkness. You see, Jesus was not a very popular person to the majority of people at that time. Jesus was not a rich person, owning a lot of money or property. As a matter of fact, Jesus never owned a house to live in. He possessed little money and earthly goods. (**Matthew 8:20**). **Philippians 2:5-8** has much to say concerning the very nature of Jesus: "*who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, tak-*

ing the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

So the next time you get into a "pity party" attitude, all you need to do is look back to the cross. We can see that Jesus carried the cross for us all. You see, Jesus was despised and rejected by men and He was also a man of sorrows. Jesus was very familiar with suffering. Jesus brought love and mercy to all of mankind, yet He was oppressed and afflicted because of the message that He brought. So the next time we grow weary from doing good to those around us, let us always remember this world is not our home. **Galatians 6:9-10**: "*And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*"

-Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Jesus Walked in My Shoes

Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
 10:20 a.m.
 6:00 p.m.
 Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
 Charles Kelley
 Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
 Eddie Cook
 Bill Davis
 Neil Ledbetter
 Jeff Nunn
 Fred Perez

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Isaiah 53:2-5;7-8 *He was bruised for our 2" For He shall grow up iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out upon Him, and by His of dry ground. He has stripes we are healed. 7 no form or comeliness; He was oppressed and And when we see Him, He was afflicted, Yet He there is no beauty that opened not His mouth; we should desire Him. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a rejected by men, a Man of sheep before its shearers is silent, so He sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten My people He was by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions,*

How often do we as Christians feel that we are the only ones that go through difficult times? Sometimes we feel we are the only ones to experience difficulty in life and have what appears to be "the world against me." How many times have we had our own family members turn on us in anger? Or perhaps they feel hatred toward us because we are Christians and we stand for what is right before God. How many times have we faced anger or betrayal from those we are close to, all because we wear the name 'Christian'? How many times have we experienced close fellowship and the joy of those around us, and in the next moment we face anger and hatred all because we walk by God's word and put the very words that Jesus taught to use; and we let our lives reflect the very words of Jesus? I dare say that these questions would describe a lot of us as Christians today on the way we feel when hard times hit us and when those we are close to turn on us. Most of us today, if we are honest with ourselves, would most likely feel that we are the only ones who have ever had to face these feelings or face these difficult times in which we now live in. Most of us have read through the Bible

and have read through the Gospels at least once or twice; or I pray you have. As we read through the Gospels, we read the story about Jesus starting from His birth through His death and resurrection. We will see that Jesus went through all of the hardships and pain that we have to face today. The only difference is that we didn't have to die on the cross for all mankind. The birth of Jesus was a simple birth, his earthly mother, Mary, was a young unmarried lady and His earthly father was a simple carpenter. Jesus' parents were poor and Jesus had to be born in a stable. Most of us today were born in a hospital or at home, but not in a stable. Then, like now, many have a tendency to look down on those who are poor and sometimes despise those who have low income jobs. As Jesus grew up He was obedient to His heavenly Father, God, by being baptized by John the baptist to fulfill all righteousness. **(Matt. 3:15-17)** After being baptized, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. **(Matt. 4)** None of us have ever had to face the devil face to face. After the temptation of Jesus, He spent the next three years teaching God's word to the people

that lived in that area, always trying to save their souls. How many of us today go about teaching the Word to those we come into contact with? Thousands of people were drawn to Jesus by His teaching because He taught as one with authority and power. A lot of today's modern preachers can't do that. You see, Jesus was a light to a world lost in sin. Jesus was the example of how all of us should live our lives before God. Jesus showed us that we should not commit murder, adultery or divorce our mates. We should love our enemies not hate them. We should give to the needy and pray for those around us, especially those of the faith. Most of all, Jesus let God's word guide Him and so should we as Christians today. You see, Jesus gave these people hope. Jesus gave the world hope and the way to salvation to be united with God in heaven where there is peace and love. During these three years, Jesus performed many miracles for mankind such as healing the paralytic, the demon-possessed and those with disease. He also raised the dead. You would think that with all of these miracles that Jesus did for these people that they would have listened to Him. They should have loved Him and

cherished just being around Jesus. This was not meant to be. As a matter of fact, it was just the opposite. When Jesus healed those who were in need on the Sabbath, the Pharisees and the Sadducees wanted to put Jesus to death. He came into a world in which religious leaders had corrupted the worship of Almighty God as evidenced when Jesus drove all of the money changers out of the temple. They lacked reverence for God and His ways. These money changers in the temple were just there to make a profit off of the people who were buying animals because the people needed these animals to use for their offerings before God. They did not recognize that the Son of God was in their midst. The Pharisees and the Sadducees would often sit and listen to the teachings of Jesus only to try and trap Jesus with His own words. Jesus made the Pharisees and the Sadducees very angry with Him because He did not go along with the traditions that they had made all those years on how to worship God. In other words, Jesus went against the flow of "how things were supposed to be." They had substituted man's ways, or "traditions of men" in place of God's ways. In Matthew 21, Jesus made a trip