

Jesus Changes Everything

The Answer is Easter

1 Peter 2:21

Pastor Brian

1 Peter 2 ²¹ *God called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps. (GW)*

Good Friday: The day of PAIN

Hebrews 2 ¹⁸ *For since he himself has now been through suffering and temptation, he knows what it is like when we suffer and are tempted, and he is wonderfully able to help us. (TLB)*

HOW DO WE DEAL WITH DAYS OF PAIN?

1. **REACH OUT** to friends.

Matthew 26 ³⁶ *Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." ³⁷ He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. ³⁸ He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." (NLT)*

2. **DRAW CLOSER** to God.

Mark 14 ³⁵ *He went on a little farther and fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. ³⁶ "Abba, Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." (NLT)*

Holy Saturday: The day of UNCERTAINTY AND DOUBT

Matthew 26 ³¹ *Then Jesus told them, "Before the night's over, you're going to fall to pieces because of what happens to me. There is a Scripture that says, I'll strike the shepherd; dazed and confused, the sheep will be scattered. (MSG)*

Matthew 26 ⁵⁶ *But this is all happening to fulfill the words of the prophets as recorded in the Scriptures. At that point, all the disciples deserted him and fled. (NLT)*

HOW DO WE GET THROUGH DAYS OF UNCERTAINTY AND DOUBT?

1. **TRUST GOD** for His provision.

Psalms 9 ¹⁰ *Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. (NIV)*

2. **REMEMBER** God's promises to us.

2 Corinthians 1 ²⁰ *For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" (NLT)*

Isaiah 43 ² When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. ³ For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (NLT)

Easter Sunday: THE DAY OF JOY.

Luke 24 ¹ Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. ² They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. ³ So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, "Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? ⁶ He isn't here! He is risen from the dead! Remember what he told you back in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day."

HOW DO WE GET TO THE DAYS OF JOY?

1. **BY DEPENDING** on the power of Jesus.

Ephesians 1 ¹⁹ I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power ²⁰ that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. (NLT)

Philippians 4 ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (KJV)

2. **BY SURRENDERING** our lives to Him.

Matthew 16 ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. (NLT)

3. **BY TELLING** others about Him.

Mark 16 ¹⁵ "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone." (NLT)

Action Step:

TELL ONE PERSON ABOUT JESUS THIS WEEKEND.