

Surprised by Suffering

We pray to be used by God, then are surprised when we feel frayed and worn at times.

We want to be servants, as He was, then are disillusioned when we are given no honor or respect.

We offer ourselves as living sacrifices. We pick up our cross and follow Him - He who was falsely accused, humiliated, tortured, and executed as a criminal. He accepted it all in quiet submission. Yet we complain loudly if the least bit of misunderstanding, discomfort, or humiliation comes our way.

Jesus told His disciples plainly and repeatedly that suffering was a vital part of His work, and that it would be so for them as well. Yet we are shocked and confused when suffering comes.

Lord, You were rejected. You were abandoned. You died a failure in the eyes of Your contemporaries. All this was in fulfillment of Your mission. You are my Master, my Lord. Why should I expect or seek more than that?

Fix your eyes on Jesus. For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, considering its shame as nothing. Now He is sitting at the right hand of the throne of God. Think about Him who endured such opposition so that you don't grow weary or lose heart. (Hebrews 12:2-3, para.)

*Father,
whatever of Christ's sufferings
You give me to share,
by Your Spirit help me share them with
the joy of Christ.*

Hymn: [Glorify Your Name](#)

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