

Series: John

Title: Now is My Soul Troubled

Text: Jn 12: 27-28

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John 12: 27: Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28: Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. 29: The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. 30: Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.

What is soul trouble? When the spirit is well within, a man can endure outward trouble. But when the spirit is troubled, who can bear it? A ship can endure stormy winds and waves. But when the waves enter into the ship then it begins to sink.

Proverbs 17:22: A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Proverbs 18:14: The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

Our Lord said, “*Now is my soul troubled.*” It is impossible for us to comprehend our Lord’s “soul trouble.” Scripture calls our sufferings “light affliction which is but for a moment” (2 Cor 4:17). It seems anything but light to us. But compared to our Savior’s soul-trouble our worst is light. The best we can do to try to enter into our Savior’s soul-trouble is to think on the worst soul trouble we have ever suffered then magnify it a thousand times. But it still falls short of what our Savior suffered in soul.

WHAT WAS OUR LORD’S SOUL TROUBLE?

John 12: 27: Now is my soul troubled;

Our Lord knew beforehand what he would bear on the cross so that his “soul-trouble” increased the nearer he came to the cross

Luke 12:50...I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

The night he was betrayed, while at the table with his apostles, when his thought turned to the betrayer, “he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me” (Jn 13: 21) Then in Gethsemane, “he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch” (Mk 14: 33-34). “And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” (Lu 22: 44). Then on the cross:

Psalm 77: 2: In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted. 3: I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.

Psalm 88: 2: Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; 3: For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

Job 6: 2: Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; 3: For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave.

What troubled the soul of our Lord so? The Lord Jesus Christ is holy God and perfect Man who knew no sin. He hated sin with perfect hatred. He is holy God. We know very little of our sin. We *do* hate our sin, but we do not hate it as we ought or as we would. The holy GodMan knew no sin. He hated sin with perfect hatred.

Yet, the spotless Lamb of God willingly gave himself to be “made sin for us” (2 Cor 5:21). There is a huge difference between being a sinner and being made sin. A sinner willingly commits sin. Christ was not a sinner. But Christ willingly presented himself to the Father and was made sin for us. He bore the sins of his elect in his own body on the tree (1 Pet 2:24). What a load of sin he bore! “The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Is 53: 6). Due to the Lord’s purpose of manifesting the righteousness of God, how that God is the just Judge, God would not make Christ a curse until he first made him bear our sins. The sins of God’s elect really became his sins and Christ owned them as his. He said,

Psalm 38: 2: For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. 3: *There is* no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither *is there any* rest in my bones because of my sin. 4: For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.

It had to be so. He came to manifest the righteousness of God. The Lord came to declare how God can be Just and the Justifier of his people. Therefore in order for God to mete out justice upon our Substitute righteously, in order for him to make us the righteousness of God in him, “He made him sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Cor 5:21).

This was the shame of the cross that caused him “soul trouble.” This is what caused our Redeemer to be in agony of soul and sweat great drops of blood. You and I “have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.” But our Savior did (Heb 12: 4).

What troubled our Lord in soul? Each child of God has the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Nothing comforts us like having communion with the Father. Nothing comforts us like the smile of God’s countenance shining upon us. But the Lord Jesus knew the love of his Father perfectly and he loved the Father with perfect love. He had perfect communion with the Father as his righteous servant.

Yet, he knew that after he was made sin for his people, he would be made a curse for us. Under the just wrath of God, Christ knew he would be cut off from the Father. He knew he would bear the thick darkness of the light of his Father’s countenance being turned away. Hell is being cast out from the glory—from the Light—of God’s presence. Christ bore that curse—the second death—for his people as he endured that living death on the cross.

Psalm 88: 1: O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day *and* night before thee: 2: Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; 3: For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. 4: I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man *that hath* no strength: 5: Free among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, whom thou rememberest no more: and they are cut off from thy hand. 6 Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. 7: Thy wrath lieth hard upon me, and thou hast afflicted *me* with all thy waves. Selah.

Job 6: 4: For the arrows of the Almighty *are* within me, the poison whereof drinketh up my spirit: the terrors of God do set themselves in array against me.

Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*

Without a doubt, the bodily sufferings he would bear from the hands of men would be excruciating. But far worse, was the trouble of his soul. It was the soul trouble that came from knowing he would be made sin for us and be made a curse for us enduring the wrath of God in our stead.

And right here that day, while the crowds were all about him, smiling and happy and greeting old friends they had not seen in a year as they went about their religious charade, our Lord thought of all this that he would bear and said, “*Now is my soul is troubled.*”

BEHOLD THE FAITH OF OUR LORD JESUS

John 12: 27: Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. 28 Father, glorify thy name.

The holiness of God, the Wisdom of God, the Will of God, the Love of God, the Grace of God, the Mercy of God, the Longsuffering of God, the Goodness of God, the Faithfulness of God, the Covenant of God, the Salvation of God, the Wrath of God, the Righteousness of God—the very Glory of God’s name is what we behold in Christ crucified. In Christ crucified we behold who God is and how God saves his sinful people. In Christ crucified we behold how God is just and the Justifier of those he saves. *“For this cause”—to glorify the name of God—“came I unto this hour.”*

Do you see why it says, “The government shall be upon his shoulder?” (Is 9: 6). Everything in the manifestation of God’s glory in the salvation of his people rested upon Christ’s shoulder. *“For this cause came I unto this hour, Father, glorify thy name!”*

I wonder how many hours there will have been throughout time from the first hour to the last. Yet, *“this hour”* is the hour for which God made all things. It was for the Father’s glory that our Lord Jesus set his face like a flint and went to the bitter, shameful cross, *saying, “Father, glorify thy name.”* It was for the Father’s glory that he said, “Not my will but thine be done” (Lu 22: 42).

The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, on the cross, glorified God’s name. He finished the work the Father gave him to accomplish. The righteous Son of God magnified the law and made it honorable declaring God just. He justified each one the Father entrusted to him. Our great Scapegoat put away our sins as far as the east is from the west so that God says, “I remember thy sins no more!” He made his people the righteousness of God in him. The Lord our Righteousness manifest God’s righteousness in doing so. He suffered all in perfect faith to God without a hint of unbelief. The Author and Finisher of our faith endured the cross in perfect love to Father and to his people. He glorified the name of the Father!

THE FATHER GLORIFIED OUR REDEEMER

John 12: 28:…Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.

AW Pink points out that “Three times the Father spoke audibly unto the Son: at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of His Messianic career, and in each case it was in view of His death. At the Jordan Christ went down, symbolically, into the place of death; on the Holy Mount Moses and Elijah had talked with Him “of his decease” (Luke 9:31); and here, Christ had just announced that His “hour” was at hand.”

This is why those in whom he has revealed his glory are so taken up with preaching the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. CHRIST AND HIM CRUCIFIED IS NOT ONLY OUR SALVATION BUT WHERE WE BEHOLD THE GLORY OF GOD’S NAME!

Galatians 6:14: But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Therefore, God glorified his name again when he raised Christ from the dead to his right hand declaring him triumphant in finishing the work of the Father. Right now, our Redeemer is seated in glory and all his people are seated there in him—complete!

When the Father had glorified his name, when he spoke from heaven declaring this is “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” this was the Father’s word, “hear ye him” (Mt 17: 5). In every time of soul trouble, hear Christ and run to him. Christ declares in Psalm 77: 2 “In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord.” That is what he commands us to do in all things at all times—that is the purpose for which he sends our soul trouble.

What causes us trouble in spirit? Let me give you four things:

One, *temptations of Satan cause soul trouble.* The Lord permitted the devil to assault Job. And the devil assaulted Job’s friends as well, turning them against each other, even against Job. Satan desired to sift Peter and the apostles. He did it by causing each to argue why they were greater than the other. This is what Peter learned. The only way to resist the devil is by believing on Christ and trusting that he is working—accomplishing—the same afflictions in our brethren. May God teach us this.

1 Peter 5:9: Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Two, *our own ignorance causes soul trouble*. Of course the will-worshiper has no peace. There is nothing in a false gospel to give peace. It is all whip of the law and mercenary rewards. Conditional election has no peace in it. Redemption for all yet for none affords no peace. A new birth depending on the helpless infant gives no peace. Saved today, lost tomorrow hinging on man's will and works gives no peace. But far too often believers lean to our own understanding. The only way of escape is to run to Christ. God commands, "Hear ye him!" Christ is our Wisdom.

Proverbs 3: 5: Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6: In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Three, *our sin causes soul trouble*. We can endure outward infirmities. But sin and God's displeasure causes great soul trouble. There is but one fountain for cleansing. Make a straight path to Christ confessing all your sin to him alone. Go to Christ begging mercy from the Merciful. He promises that he delights to show mercy! "If any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous and he is the propitiation for our sins" (1 Jn 2: 1). He alone purges the conscience and is faithful and just to do so by his blood.

Four, the worst cause of all our soul trouble—that which is involved in all this other soul trouble—is unbelief. When we look to ourselves, when we look to God's providence, when we behold the wind and waves, these are weights. They result in unbelief filling our spirit and so easily besetting us. There is only one cure. Do what all the saints in every age have done. They are a great cloud of witnesses to us to do this one thing.

Hebrews 12: 1: Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2: Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

When Christ's soul was troubled, he looked to the Father. And the Father commands us to look to his Son! Hear ye him! Christ is all our need. Looking to Christ alone we are doing what Christ did in our text, we are saying "*Father glorify thy name!*" And the cure for soul trouble is always, only by God glorifying his name by shining into our hearts to give the excellency of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus. This is how God in Christ gets all the glory at all times. Christ is the only way we begin this race and by Christ turning us to believe on him is the only way we continue persevering unto the end. Salvation is of the Lord. Salvation is only through believing on the Son!

Amen!