

Fact Sheet for “The Suffering Servant” Hebrews 5:7-9

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Read Isaiah 53

Who was Jesus? He is fully God and fully man. During the time He walked on earth He set aside for a time the full exercise of His divine nature. *But His divine nature was not fully set aside (Lk. 7:49; 8:24-25).*

Consider one passage from Hebrews.

Hebrews 5:7

⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.

In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36-46; Mk. 14:32-42; Lk. 22:39-46)

Hebrews 5:8

⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.

The human Jesus had to learn obedience, not from disobedience but through consistent right choices (see for example Lk. 2:51).

Hebrews 5:9

⁹ And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him...

This word “perfect” can also be translated “complete” or “mature” (1 Cor. 2:6; Heb. 5:14).

Jesus felt the tug of temptation as we do.

^{ESV} **Hebrews 4:15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Although Jesus had a sinless nature he still felt the pull of temptation. Think about it. Satan only had to influence Jesus to sin once. Satan threw his all into tempting Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11; Mk. 1:12-13; Lk. 4:1-13).

The human Jesus became perfect and mature through perfect obedience to the Father (Jn. 6:38; 8:28-29, 42; Philippians 2:8-11).

Jesus call us to obey Him.

ESV John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

What does all of this say to us?

Obedience

Every opportunity we have to obey or disobey God is an opportunity for character development and the strengthening of our faith.

There are no insignificant opportunities for obedience.

As the Father grew the man Jesus in His obedience through sufferings, so also God trains us.

Sufferings, Afflictions, Trials, Tests

These are God's paving stones along our pathway to maturity. God is never out of control (Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 1:11).

If the Father used affliction and suffering to bring about maturity in the man Christ Jesus doesn't it stand to reason that God would use the same for us?

Moving Towards Maturity

The life of growing faith and strengthened character is one of obedience and often suffering.

ESV Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Think about the times you have grown in your faith and obedience. Were they times of ease and leisure or were they times of stress and challenge?

Illustration: Consider Abraham's growth in faith (Genesis 12-22).

When you worship Jesus this Christmas think of His perfect obedience in the face of suffering, His sacrifice for us, and His call for us to obey Him...

...and renew you dedication to follow Him!