



How Deep The Father's Love For Us *Day 3: Verse 1 (partial)*

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Scripture Reference

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

- *Matthew 27: 46*



Let's begin today by backing up again in the Holy Week timeline. Back to the Garden of Gethsemane, right before Jesus is arrested. During this time, Jesus prays to His Father: "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." (Luke 22:42). Jesus knew what was to come and He knew it would not be easy. Luke 22:44 even tells us "And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground." He used this time with His Father to strengthen himself in a time of great anguish. Even in anguish, He submitted to the will of the Father. He got up.

What areas in your life have you been pleading to the Father to take away? Have you submitted those over to the Father? Have you relinquished your own desires for His will?

Jesus prayed so earnestly in Gethsemane because of this exact moment on the cross we are focusing on today. Jesus cries out to the Father – why have you forsaken me? This was the cup He asked to be taken from Him. On the cross, Jesus suffered terribly. He took on our sin and paid the price for it. He died a brutal death for us – for you.

What "cups" in your life have you asked God to remove, and yet He has not? Are there any seasons or experiences you wish He would have taken away? What "deaths" may He have been requiring of you?



Jesus, wholly human, but never having sinned, bore the wrath for our sin. Oh beloved, how great the pain Jesus suffered for each of us. Take a moment to reflect on the wounds that Jesus bore for us. The physical wounds – holes in His hands, His feet, and His side; a body worn out from literally hanging on a cross; heat beaming down on a naked body. It's hard for most of to fully appreciate the depth of that pain. The spiritual wounds, some may say alienation, whether literal or just emotional. But it was our sin – yours and mine – that Jesus bore. Jesus had never sinned, and yet He took our sin as His own and suffered the death we each deserve.

What does Jesus' wounds – both physical and spiritual – mean to you? Which is harder to comprehend? What responses are stirred up within you when you reflect over these wounds? Confess your sins to Jesus, confess your need for His wounds on your behalf.

In this act, though, Jesus brought many sons to glory. His wounds redeemed us. His wounds redeemed **you**. We never have to suffer the loss (even temporary) of God in our lives. As believers, the Holy Spirit lives within us. We have life with Him now, and we have eternal life. Isn't this such a precious truth even among our own weaknesses, failures, and sins?

Take time to meditate on all that you've written above. Your Heavenly Father knows these are not easy truths for us to process. Praise your Heavenly Father for His grace towards you. Let His redemption pour over you.
