

CALL to PRAYER - Pray for our nation. Much to be grateful for & much to repent from

1 Peter 2:20-21 – CrossWords for the Crossroads of Crisis

INTRO - Previously I said that we had finished the last series on the Seven Sayings...I lied. One more to apply the *Sacred 7* to how we suffer. Jesus' suffering & death is a pattern we are follow when we are in pain. It is much more than that, but it includes that - (1 Peter 2:20-21). Jesus showed us the way, & what to say, when we suffer. We are to follow Him as we take up our cross & use His *words* during our worse days. Today we will personally apply how our Lord replied when He was hurting. We will use the acrostic **H.U.R.T.I.N.G.** (1 for each saying)

1. **H.** _____ it over "Father, forgive them for they...."
 - a. When there is a hurt the issue of forgiveness needs to be addressed first...even when the forgiveness cannot be full until the future.
 - b. What do you do when immediate personal forgiveness is not possible?
 - i. Examples - no confession/repentance/remorse. Still being hurt (cross)
 - ii. HAND IT OVER TO THE FATHER address Deity, not your enemy
 - c. Jesus was still being hurt by His enemies, but He was giving the forgiving over to the Father. It couldn't be resolved then so He passed it to the Father for the future.
 - d. No forgiveness = no healing from hurting
 - i. no willingness to forgive = no way to heaven Matt. 6:14-15
 - e. Four ingredients of forgiveness found in the first *CrossWord*
 - i. *Injustice Acknowledged* no forgiveness without a recognized wrong
 - ii. *Ignorance Conceded* "...they know not what they do..."
 1. They cannot understand the weight of their wrong - you must bear it
 - iii. *Divine Assistance Needed* "Father, forgive them..." (Mark 2:7)
 1. It takes faith to forgive Luke 17:3-5
 - iv. *Retaliation Forbidden* Romans 12:19
 1. Forgiveness involves giving up your right get even
 - a. Hand it over to heaven.
 2. No retaliation but supplication. Pray for enemies - Matt. 5:44
 - a. You don't make them pay. YOU PAY & YOU PRAY
2. **U.** _____ your responsibilities "...behold your mother..."
 - a. Ever notice that the world doesn't stop spinning when you are hurting?
 - i. Your "world" my stop, but the world keeps going
 - b. Often times hurting makes you hide from relations and responsibilities
 - i. Want to close the door, pull the curtains, cut yourself off from others....
 - c. Even as Jesus suffered, He didn't neglect His mother
 - i. Understand your responsibility even when enduring hostility
 - ii. Don't be neglectful when life gets painful
3. **R.** _____ others
 - a. Jesus responded to a request from a thief. "...Today you will be with Me ..."
 - b. Jesus was not too busy with His own suffering to notice a fellow sufferer
 - c. Romans 12:10 Phil. 2:3-5

- d. The statement, "*other people are more important than me*" is easier said than believed
 - i. It is even harder to live out. Dying to self really hurts (Mark 8:34)
- e. As Christians we are to consider others even when we are bearing our own cross
 - i. IF YOU ARE HURTING...THEN GO HELP SOMEONE
 1. Help your enemy....your family....your friends.... a stranger
 - ii. ~~"I have enough problems of my own to involve myself with..."~~
 - iii. When you are reeling, remember others
4. **T.** _____ it like it is. "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken ...*"
 - a. See God's sovereignty in your suffering
 - i. Don't airbrush His Hand out of your hurting/suffering
 - ii. Eccles. 7:13-14 Job 1:20-22 Rom. 11:36 Prov. 3:6a
 - iii. If God is not in control of the bad things of life, then He is not in control of anything in this life
 - b. Cry out to the ONE in control....and tell it like it is
 - i. Psalm 13
 - c. God meant it Genesis 50:20 He meant it for your good – Rom. 8:28
 - i. Your adversary meant it for your harm
 - ii. Don't airbrush the evil out of the event or God's Hand out of your hurt
 - iii. TELL IT LIKE IT IS (God has broad shoulders – He can handle it)
5. **I.** _____ am in need. "*I thirst*"
 - a. It is ok to articulate what you need
 - i. All the "ly's" of life
 - b. Physically food/sleep/recovery time (1 Kings 19:5-8)
 - c. Emotionally Matt. 5:4 Ps. 6:6-7 Ps. 56:8
 - d. Relationally Eccles. 4:10 it is not good to be alone
 - e. Spiritually 1 Cor. 12:20-21, 26
6. **N.** _____ to finish it. "*It is finished!*"
 - a. Run the race with patience...but don't prolong it
 - i. you need to finish it
 - b. There is a time for everything, but remember that time is temporal
 - i. Eccles. 3:4 understand the times but don't make it eternal
 - ii. 2 Cor. 4:17 (16-18)
 - c. Hurting can make you hesitant and remain stuck in an "eternal present"
 - i. Eccles 11:4 - focusing too much on problems makes one hesitant to solutions
 - d. When does it end? It needs to end sometime...so, finish it
7. **G.** _____ it to God. "*Father, into Your hands I commend....*"
 - a. God is the first, middle, and last of your crisis
 - i. Saying 1, 4, & 7 address God (forgive, forsake and final breath)
 - ii. Order of emphasis God (1) - Others (2-3) - God (4) - Me (5-6) - God (7)
 - b. In the final analysis you must commend your crisis back to God who gave it
 - i. Give it to Him. Is anything too hard for the Lord? Is. 59:1-2
 - ii. He will take it
 - iii. He will use it 2 Cor. 1:3-11