

Understanding & Embracing Suffering
#4: The Father has Suffered to Comfort Us
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles. (2 Cor 1:3-4)

God reveals His suffering to bring us comfort in our suffering.

God the Father suffered rejection

Ezekiel 6:9; ch. 16; Jeremiah 2:2, 5; Hosea 11:1-9; 1 Samuel 8:6-8.

Practical Applications

- 1) When we experience the pain of rejection, be comforted by the empathy and compassion that God the Father feels toward you because He has suffered the same thing.
- 2) Recognizing God's suffering should raise our esteem for Him.
- 3) Why has God been willing to suffer?
"Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross" (Heb 12:2 NLT)

Discussion ?'s

- 1) When you think about God describing Himself as a lover who has been cheated on, or a parent who has been rejected, how does this affect your view of God?
- 2) What did Pastor Kurt mean by the "humanness" of God? Why might some object to this? What biblical evidence is there for it?
- 3) How does the suffering of God bring us comfort in our own suffering?
- 4) Pastor Kurt suggested that another reason God is willing to suffer is to experience increased joy. What do you think about that? How might that work in our own lives?
- 5) What was most meaningful to you about the Sunday message?