

THE THINGS HE CARRIED

SESSION 5

THE HOPES OF GOD

Read through this chapter and then the following passages, as they help to give you a deeper understanding of the chapter.

Isaiah 53:1-6 • Genesis 22:1-19 • Exodus 12:1-14

Consider the following:

- Have you ever felt the weight of hope – perhaps your parents, your family, your teachers, your friends, yourself? How did you cope with the responsibility of delivering those hopes?

“This is my servant ... whom I uphold ...”

“This is my son, the beloved, listen to him ...”

- Yet, here he was, submitting to all that was being inflicted on him. How had he prepared himself for this fulfilment of what was described in Exodus chapter 12.
- What does this key verse 13: “But the blood on your doorposts will serve as a sign, marking the houses where you are staying. When I see the blood, I will pass over you. This plague of death will not touch you when I strike the land of Egypt.”, mean for us today?
- Read the following verses: Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 9:14 and perhaps the most crucial verse of all, Hebrews 9:22. Do these help you better understand the chapter in Exodus.

“He carries to the cross every person and every person’s death.”

- What does he mean by “There won’t be any other rules. There will be only him:”?
- Read: Song of Solomon 2:4 “He brought me to his banqueting table, and his banner over me is love.” and John 14:3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” We are going to be the guests at that great banquet following the return of Jesus. This mirrors the parable told by Jesus in Luke 14:15-24.
- In the paragraph towards the bottom of page 42, he reminds us of the key to our Christian walk, “that we should love one another with the same love that we see in him.”
- We are reminded on page 43 of what Jesus expects of us. Matthew 25:34-40.
- Read prayerfully the last short paragraph: “So for the last part of the journey....”
- Read page 45 – and reflect.
- Look at the questions based on Mark 12:1-12 and search your heart as you honestly try to answer them.

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The words of this beautiful gospel hymn by the Martins sums up what Jesus did for us on the cross when he carried the hopes of God.

You've lost it all, your dignity and pride.
A sinking soul swimm'in in the tears you cried.
Alone and hopeless without a word to say,
Cause guilt has taken it all away.
Except for grace and your faith
And knowing that God's love will forgive mistakes,
There's nothing that can clear your painful past,
Bear your bitter pain, or could ever take your place,
Except for grace!

We've all stood right where you're at,
Facing the shame of failures and regrets,
Leaving us empty, broken, and afraid to dream
'Cause sin has stripped us clean of everything.

Except for grace and our faith,
And knowing that God's love will forgive mistakes.
There's nothing that can clear our painful pasts,
Bear our bitter pain, or will ever take our place
Except for grace.

