

THE THINGS HE CARRIED

SESSION 6

THE SINS OF THE WORLD

This chapter brought me to tears like nothing has for a long time. The enormity of my sins and the weight of them for Jesus on the cross hit me as I realised, in my limited way, how much he loves me. I pray that it touches you as powerfully as it touched me.

Read through the chapter more than once and then consider the following:

"This is what sin does" (Last paragraph page 51)

- How hard is it to acknowledge that we are guilty of the MANY sins listed in this chapter?
- Are we prepared to be honest with ourselves and God?
- What are we going to do about this revelation of our sinfulness?
- Does the word SIN make you feel uncomfortable?
- Read the words of the song by Stuart Townsend at the end of this study.

"For God so loved the world..."

- Read John 3:16.
- When we next take communion, pray that we will have a deeper understanding of the of "How deep the father's love for us..."

"For God so loved the world..."

- What do you understand about righteousness?
- Ecclesiastes 7:20 Indeed, there is no one on earth who is righteous, no one who does what is right and never sins."
- Luke 5:32 "I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners and need to repent."
- To be righteous is to be in right standing with God – totally forgiven.

"But if I look very closely ... He carries me. And I am not heavy to him."

- What thoughts come to your mind when you read this?
- Think about that lovely poem of Footprints in the sand. Can you relate that to any particular experiences in your life?

Read Page 54 – Romans 5:1-11, and try to answer the questions.

Some of these probe deeply and that may make it hard to give answers, but again, be honest with yourself because God already knows you inside out.

Give thanks to God for all that he has done for you and as we approach the end of Lent and the arrival of Easter Day may we face it with joy and thankfulness.

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How Deep the Father's Love for Us Stuart Townend

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
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
Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished
I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

