

The Way to the Crown is Cross – 08 21 05

- Joshua Daniel

If you turn to Luke 24th chapter, 25 and 26: Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

How can you fault me for suffering? Ought not Christ, of course he did not reveal his identity. So he was speaking in the third person: ought not Christ to have suffered? Look at our attitude towards suffering; you know I have seen three generations, just met my grandfather as a little boy, I came to know his tremendous faith and testimony, later on I was too young when I met him to understand everything, so that's one generation that followed the lord. The next my dad, what a presentation of Jesus Christ and his ministry and that's what I witnessed till the end of his days, second generation. Third generation, mine, I have seen some of my friends who have followed the lord so faithfully. They put me to shame. Then there is the next generation, I see yet another generation, leaving a mark upon five generations should not be such an impossible matter. Five generations! I labored together with my father with all my heart. He was the senior, I was the learner, I was the apprentice, I was the junior preacher. I wanted to learn and I needed to learn a lot. Today I noticed so many of our families, some of the fathers and mothers have passed through trials, tests, they never grumbled, never grumbled, they were ready to have the scars of battle. But when it came to next generation, oh my children should have it more comfortable. Oh my children should be so cuddled you know with this, that and the other. I say, hey, what is this? You fellows rejoiced in whatever you did to serve and what little you had to suffer and now you are full of fear my children may suffer that, my children may suffer this, oh I can't have them loose this, loose that. What do you mean? Ought not Christ to have entered into his glory through the things which he suffered? Come, tell me fellows. He said to those two gloomy men, ought not Christ to have entered into his glory through these sufferings? You know Christian suffering ends in glory. I can't say I have suffered a lot. But I have faced all kinds of threats, dangers, all kinds of natural calamities of some sorts. Not all. There are far more people who have suffered a great deal more. And some of us when we meet them in heaven will feel perfectly ashamed of our grumble tones. Grumbling, grumbling over this, over that over trifles. Ought not Christ to have suffered? You know my dear friends, for the most

worthwhile things people have suffered. Oh some of them suffered but they wanted to stake their claim oh I want this parcel of ground, there is gold here and they wanted to stake their claim and they died there. They stake their claim but died. For gold they did it under a strict boss they are ready to suffer because that is their bread and butter but for Jesus sake, oh no. this does not speak of any reality. You can't have a cross and you want a crown. The way to the crown is only the cross. The rejection of the cross could easily mean the loss of the crown. Of course, there are battles to fight, there are force to encounter but we don't turn back. We don't bat an eyelid. Well, we do more than bat an eyelid, I know, because fear comes into us. No my dear friends, god is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or think. I have seen that scripture unfolding, I wish I could see it unfolding to the fullest. Well, my dear friends, he is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that you can ask or think. Alright, let's go to the last question: down from 36: As they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, peace be unto you.

Two of us began to pray when I joined the university and soon others began to get converted and we got working. One of the first jobs that this young fellow who later became an engineering professor whose son and grandsons are here; I gave him a job to do in the vacation. You know what it was? To make a big banner, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them. He was not a tailor but he made a beautiful banner during his vacation and that banner used to hang over all those campaigns, those early battles. Jesus himself stood in the midst of them. As Jesus stood in the midst and said, peace be unto you, 37: but they are terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto the, why are you troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as you see me have.

Look at that friends, why are you troubled and why do thoughts arise in your heart? Are you full of thoughts of faith? Thoughts of faith lift you. You know I find it very hard to disclose some of my thoughts because immediately they give rise to questions. No I find myself in company today where people cannot understand. Why do thoughts arise, you know if you are not growing in faith, all kinds of bizarre thoughts fill your mind. If I lose that what happens? If I don't gain that what happens? All kinds of, and then with the result that people are paralyzed. They are made inactive. Their thoughts and their fears are enough for them and their health is badly damaged. And here Jesus says, look, look, it's me, it's me, I myself, why do thoughts arise? See with Jesus Christ right before them,

they had all kinds of fearful, doubtful thoughts. Look at that. My dear friends, don't let us arrive at that kind of situation. When we look at the lord Jesus Christ, we should have thoughts arising in us as high as the sky. Thoughts of faith. I have thoughts of good and not of evil to give you an expected end. My thoughts towards you are higher than the heavens are above the earth. But look at their thoughts with the resurrected Jesus before them. Modern life is filling us with all kinds of useless thoughts my dear people. Be very careful when you sit before the television, when you sit with the newspaper, when you sit in ungodly circles. You know what young fellows talk these days? If you go there you will get a big pay rise, you are going to make quick money. That's all they talk. They sit at dinner table, all they can talk is cars, what I want to buy, what kind of house I want to build, and that's all. Is Jesus before you? If Jesus is before you, let me tell you, you will have thoughts of triumph, thoughts of faith. Thoughts which challenge you. Why do thoughts arise? Why are you troubled in your hearts?