

5-Stand By Me

1/29/23

INTRO:

I. → Hebrews 10:32-35

32 Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of **suffering**. 33 Sometimes you were **publicly exposed** to insult and persecution; at other times you **stood side by side** with those who were so treated.

Grk (*koinonoí*) companions, partners

→ 34 You **suffered along** with those in prison and joyfully accepted the **confiscation** of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. 35 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.

BODY:

I. Companions in Suffering

32 when you endured in a great conflict full of **suffering**.

Grk (*thlíbsis*) persecution, tribulation, suffering

A. Helping each other through trials is what bonds us.

1) "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church."—
Tertullian

2) **Philippians 3:10-11**

*I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and **participation** (*koinonía*) in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

3) TACITUS ON NERO'S PERSECUTION

- B. When the chips are down you find out who your real friends are.
- 1) Grk (*theatridzo*) gazingstock
 - 2) **Proverbs 18:24**
One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.
 - 3) BOB DRIVING ALL THE WAY TO SEATTLE

II. Companions in Sympathy

34 You suffered along with those in prison
Grk (*sumpathéo*) sympathy, feel with

- A. It is through suffering that we sympathize with others.
- 1) **Hebrews 13:3**
Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.
 - 2) STOPPING FOR PEOPLE ON THE HIGHWAY
- B. We become family when we help each other through hard times.
- 1) **Hebrews 4:15**
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.
 - 2) KITTY WITH A BROKEN LEG

III. Companions in Substance

34 *knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring **substance**. (KJV)*

- A. The only lasting possessions are the one we share.
- 1) **Acts 2:44-46**
*All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and **possessions** to give to anyone who had need.*

- 2) Grk (*húparxis*) possessions, property
- 3) BATTLE OF DUNKIRK—861 VESSELS—330,000 RESCUED

B. Our only eternal treasure is stored up in heaven.

- 1) **Hebrews 11:26**

He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

- 2) BOB SNIDER WELCOMED INTO AN ETERNAL HOME

Annals of Senator Tacitus (117 AD) covers 14-68 On persecution under Nero (64-68)

But all human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the fire in Rome was the result of an order. Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace.

Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judæa, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular.

Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind. Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.

Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car. Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.

(Tacitus survived Domitian's reign of terror [81-96], which left him jaded and ashamed of his complicity in Rome's tyranny)