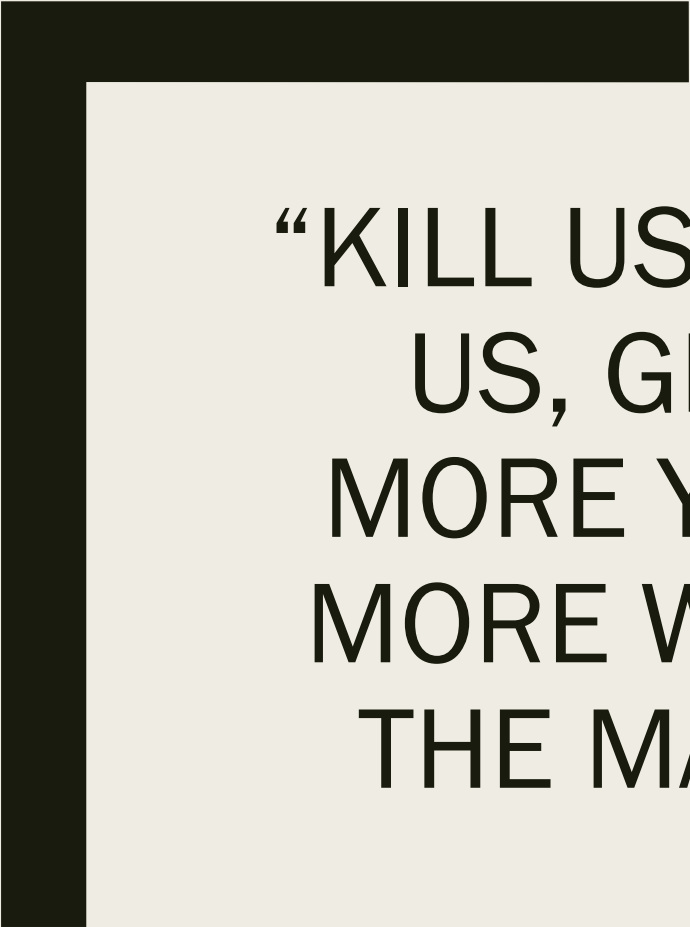


*ACTS:
A CHRIST-CENTERED, SPIRIT-EMPOWERED, MULTIETHNIC
CHURCH ON MISSION*



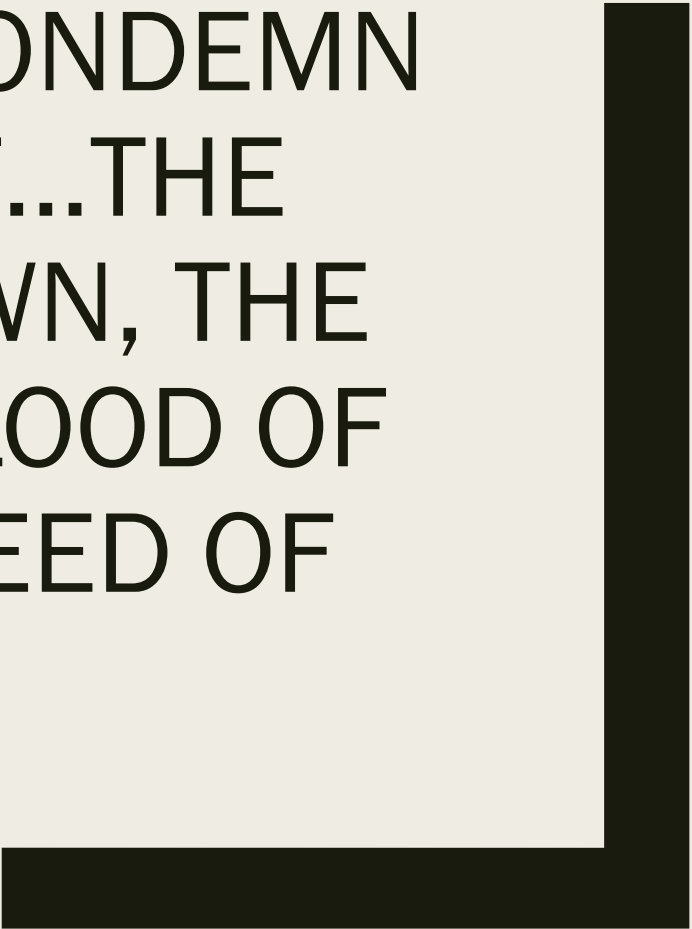
Sunday, May 25, 2025

VIGNETTES OF THE EARLY CHURCH: PART 6



“KILL US, TORTURE US, CONDEMN
US, GRIND US TO DUST...THE
MORE YOU MOW US DOWN, THE
MORE WE GROW; THE BLOOD OF
THE MARTYRS IS THE SEED OF
THE CHURCH.”

Tertullian (160-240 AD)



[13] NONE OF THE REST DARED JOIN
THEM, BUT THE PEOPLE HELD THEM IN
HIGH ESTEEM. [14] AND MORE THAN EVER
BELIEVERS WERE ADDED TO THE LORD,
MULTITUDES OF BOTH MEN AND WOMEN,

Acts 5:13-14



Acts 5:17-42

- Fear of People
- Fear of God
- Sovereignty of God

1. Fear of People – Acts 5:17-26

[17] But the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees), and filled with jealousy [18] they arrested the apostles and put them in the public prison.

1. Fear of People – Acts 5:17-26

[19] But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, [20] “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life.” [21] And when they heard this, they entered the temple at daybreak and began to teach. Now when the high priest came, and those who were with him, they called together the council, all the senate of the people of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought.

1. Fear of People – Acts 5:17-26

[22] But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison, so they returned and reported, [23] “We found the prison securely locked and the guards standing at the doors, but when we opened them we found no one inside.” [24] Now when the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these words, they were greatly perplexed about them, wondering what this would come to. [25] And someone came and told them, “Look! The men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.” [26] Then the captain with the officers went and brought them, but not by force, for they were afraid of being stoned by the people.

2. Fear of God – Acts 5:27-32

[27] And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, [28] saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” [29] But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men. [30] The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. [31] God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.



2. Fear of God – Acts 5:27-32

[32] And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

3. Sovereignty of God – Acts 5:33-42

[33] When they heard this, they were enraged and wanted to kill them. [34] But a Pharisee in the council named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law held in honor by all the people, stood up and gave orders to put the men outside for a little while.

3. Sovereignty of God – Acts 5:33-42

[35] And he said to them, “Men of Israel, take care what you are about to do with these men. [36] For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. [37] After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.

3. Sovereignty of God – Acts 5:33-42

[38] So in the present case I tell you, keep away from these men and let them alone, for if this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; [39] but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!” So they took his advice, [40] and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

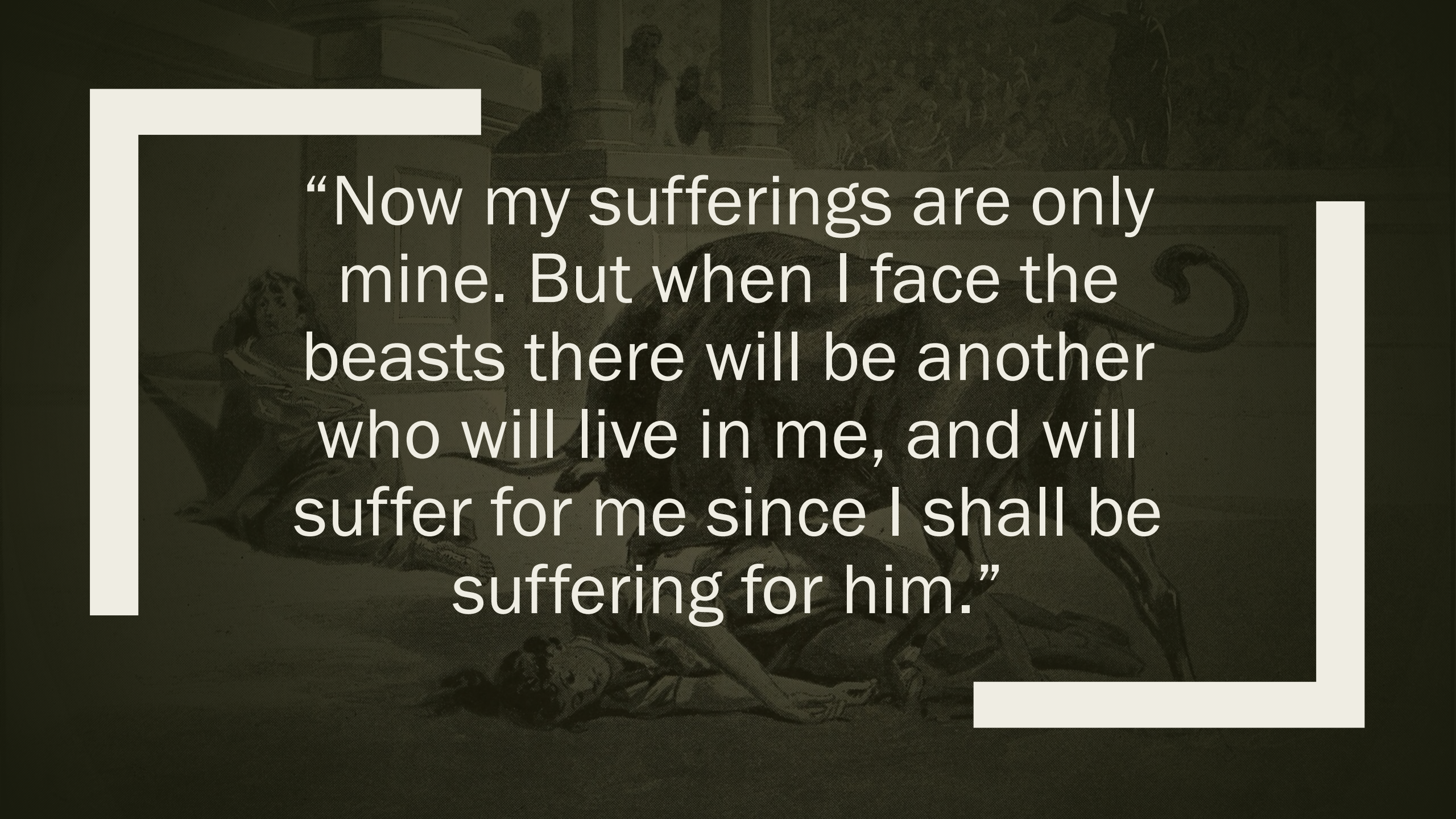
3. Sovereignty of God – Acts 5:33-42

[41] Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. [42] And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

Matthew 5:10-12

[10] “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.[11] “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. [12] Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.





“Now my sufferings are only mine. But when I face the beasts there will be another who will live in me, and will suffer for me since I shall be suffering for him.”

APPLICATION

1. Have you given your life to Jesus as your Savior, Leader, and Treasure?
2. Do you fear God or are you more concerned about the cares of this world and the fear of people?
3. Does your fear of God lead you to obey Him regardless of the consequences?