

He broke the bread

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Believers around the world will soon participate in a service that commemorates the suffering and the death of Jesus Christ.

On the night that the Lord Jesus was betrayed, He gave some bread to His disciples and said: "Take and eat. This is My body." Before He handed the bread to them, He blessed it and broke it (Matthew 26:26).

When we meditate upon the broken bread, we can remember the broken Savior.

Not only did Christ have to deal with physical abuse, He also had to face emotional suffering.

Before the physical abuse began, He began to be "sorrowful" and "very heavy" (Matthew 26:37). He said: "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death" (verse 38).

Let's quickly consider a few examples of Christ's suffering.

■ Christ endured physical suffering.

Luke mentioned that Pilate wanted to chastise Jesus and to release Him (Luke 23:16,22).

The various gospel writers talked about people scourging Him.

■ Christ endured emotional suffering from false accusation.

Long before the night He died, Jesus faced the accusations from the scribes and Pharisees (Luke 11:53-54).

As His death approached, the accusations intensified. Luke 23:2 shows how His accusers mixed truth and error. The accusers were right when they said that Jesus acknowledged Himself as a king. But they were wrong when they said that Jesus taught the people to withhold Caesar's taxes.

■ Christ endured emotional suffering from betrayal.

At the meal, Christ expressed His awareness that one of the 12 would betray Him (John 13:10-11).

Jesus said: "He that eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me" (verse 18).

Judas received the sop (John 13:26), left the room and later identified Christ with a kiss (Matthew 26:47-50).

■ Christ endured emotional suffering from abandonment.

Before Judas identified the Christ, Jesus foretold that "all of you shall be offended this night and shall be scattered" (Matthew 26:31).

After Judas identified Jesus, all the disciples forsook Him and fled (verse 56).

You all remember the account of Peter proclaiming his intention of standing by his friend but later denying Jesus three times (Luke 22:33-62).

■ When you partake of the broken bread, do so in remembrance of Him.