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SUCH PAIN – SUCH LOVE

How much pain and brutality did Jesus suffer on the day of His crucifixion? In Pilate's Hall, Roman soldiers whipped him, beat him with rods, plucked out the hairs of his beard by the roots, slapped him around, spit on him, cursed him, mocked him, pressed a crown of long thorns into his scalp, and who knows what else.

Isaiah prophesied this approximately 740 years earlier in Isaiah chapter 53. In Isaiah 52:14 it says, ***“his visage [physical appearance] was so marred more than any man, and his form [physical form] more than the sons of men.”***

He was so brutalized that even his own disciples could not recognize him in the flesh. They only recognized him by the countenance of his spirit and by the sound of his voice.

When the disciples were in the boat fishing [after his resurrection], Jesus called them to shore where he had cooked fish and bread for them. They came, but he did not look the same, yet they dared not ask who he was. They recognized his voice as he spoke to them.

On resurrection day, two of his faithful followers had left Jerusalem and were walking on the road home to Emmaus. Jesus joined them, but they did not recognize him. They thought he was a stranger. They marveled at his revealing of the scriptures to them. When they arrived home, he joined them at the supper table. It was only when he broke bread with him that these disciples discerned it was Jesus, and then he vanished into thin air.

We must understand the suffering that he went through. He was so scarred that even those closest to him could not recognize him by his physical appearance alone.

Why did he choose to suffer so much? It was for his love for the Father and the ones whom the Father gave to him [i.e., every believer]. He was determined to carry out the Father's plan no matter how much pain and suffering he had to go through.

Such great love! No greater love has ever been known.