



## LIVING THE CROSS—PART 6

# GROWTH THROUGH SUFFERING

### ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

**See, your king comes to you,  
righteous and victorious,  
lowly and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.**

<sup>10</sup> I will take away the chariots from Ephraim  
and the warhorses from Jerusalem,  
and the battle bow will be broken.

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

## DO NOT BE ASHAMED

### 2 TIMOTHY 1:8-12

So **do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord** or of me his prisoner. Rather, **join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.**

<sup>9</sup> He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, <sup>10</sup> but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

<sup>11</sup> And **of this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher.**

<sup>12</sup> **That is why I am suffering as I am.** Yet this is no cause for shame, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day.

### MARK 1:14-15

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, **proclaiming the good news of God.** <sup>15</sup> **“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”**

### ROMANS 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**What are we afraid will happen if we share the gospel?**

**Can the fear of suffering buy our silence?**

## DO NOT BE A JERK

### 1 PETER 3:15

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But **do this with gentleness and respect.**

**Suffering for the gospel isn't the same thing as suffering for being a jerk.**

## SUFFER YOUR PART

### COLOSSIANS 1:24

Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and **I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions**, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

**Jesus fulfilled His mission. Have we fulfilled ours?**

**Jesus endured His suffering for the gospel. Will we endure ours?**