

The One Who Suffers

If Jesus is God, what do his last days teach us about God?

External evidence: non-Christian accounts, archaeological discoveries.

Internal evidence: internal consistency, criterion of embarrassment.

John 7:17 NIV: Personal evidence: "Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."

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John 11:1, 3-4 NIV: Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."

John 11:7-8 NIV: ...then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." 8 "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

John 11:16 NIV: Then Thomas said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

John 11:17 NIV: On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

John 11:32-35 NIV: When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35 Jesus wept.

God sees your suffering.

How could a loving God allow suffering?

God knows your suffering.

All scriptures referenced are from the New International Version (NIV) translation of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.