

# **An Hour of Suffering with the Lord**

From the Collection of Meditations by Deacon Adel Bestavros

Now is the hour to stay up with the Lord's suffering.

Suffering is the key to Christianity; without it, there is no way to know Christ or understand Christianity.

This is why this question poses itself to Egypt's Christians today: Why this suffering?

My beloved, to us who have been saved, the cross is the strength of God and the wisdom of God.

The Prophet Isaiah described Christ as "a Man of sorrows, acquainted with grief". Christ suffered in His body and His soul – his wounds were both physical and emotional.

He withstood His feeling of being despised by those He loved. He withstood the injustice and tyranny of the rulers. He withstood shame and ridicule.

Yet, in facing all this "He opened not His mouth", but gave us solace and strength through His words promising that the hour will come when "the shepherd is stricken and the sheep of the flock is scattered, but then I will see you again and your hearts will be full of the joy that nobody can take away from you."

A Christian must partake of the Lord's suffering, walking with Him until the end of the road. Only then, one could truly know the fullness of Christ.

This is the only way that, as a companion in these sufferings, one could rest with John the beloved in the Lord's bosom.

This is the purpose from suffering.

We go through pain and suffering on earth so that we may be joyful and glorified with Christ in the resurrection.