

God Understands Loneliness

Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 27:46

In Mel Gibson's graphic portrayal of Jesus' crucifixion in the film, *The Passion of the Christ*, one's emotions are gripped by the awfulness of the physical torture Christ endured, a suffering beyond comprehension. Yet there is an anguish of greater severity that might be overlooked. It was an emotional and spiritual anguish—His aloneness.

Hundreds of years before the Crucifixion, the prophet Isaiah foretold Jesus' suffering and rejection, writing in 53:3,

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

As Jesus faced the culmination of His redemptive plan for all humanity, He experienced rejection by religious leaders who should have understood His mission. Even some of His closest followers turned their backs on Him. Then, on the cross, as He neared death, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). In that moment, even God the Father had to turn His back on the awfulness of sin that Jesus bore for our redemption.

Jesus understands rejection, pain, and loneliness more than any of us can imagine. He can relate to what you are going through at this moment. That's why He can help you get through your time of trial, if you're willing to trust Him.

In what ways have you experienced loneliness or rejection? How does knowing about Christ's experiences affect the way you look at loneliness?

How can you help someone deal with loneliness or rejection in his or her life?