

BUT HE OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH

Accusations after accusations against Him, but He did not open His mouth. Surrounded by enemies who desired Him dead, but He did not open His mouth; scourged beyond facial recognition, broken bones and out of joints bones, but He did not open His mouth. His inner strength secured by the ultimate purpose did not fail Him. Tempted by the devil in His hardest hour on earth, but He did not open His mouth, just a prayer to His heavenly Father, releasing forgiveness to those who were nailing Him to the cross, an utterance heard by all. Salvation sprung forth from that prayer and the centurion and his soldiers confessed that YAHSHUA is the Son of God. Under severe pain while they scourged Him over six hundred times, but He remained calm and did not open his mouth. No, the Son of God did not suffer as God, but as a human, with all the extension of pain we suffer. He could never suffer as God, for He is sinless and sin has no hold on Him. He was a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief; He was despised, rejected by man, but did not claim His right of being God. That was the time for Him to fulfill the plan of salvation planned by God and fulfilled by Him to all who were chosen and foreknown by God the Father and consecrated by the Spirit to obedience to YAHSHUA the Messiah and to be sprinkled with [His] blood (I Peter 1:2).

YAHSHUA demonstrated His submission by not opening His mouth during His six unfair trials is a testimony of His perfect and complete obedience “to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross!” Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ YAHSHUA, Who although being essentially one with God, and in the form of God [possessing the fulness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained, but stripped Himself so as to assume the guise of a servant, in that He became like men and was born a human being (Phi. 2:5-7). Such a sacrifice He performed to save sinners unworthy of Him! Who am I Lord, and what is my house (asked David) that You have brought me this far? (2 Sam.7:17); and what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him? (Ps. 8:4). A humble man, You O Lord will not abandon. YAHSHUA was spat on, they pluck out hair from His beard and used abusive words to humiliate Him, for men had only hatred for Him. However, when the time came, He opened not His mouth to defend Himself. His silence spoke millions of words, but no one heard. His silence, a gesture that indicated Whom He was, communicated with His Father, agreeing to go through the plan to save mankind. His silence spoke louder than the scream of the crowd; for it rested on Him the peace and the certainty of the fulfillment of prophecy for that time through Him. Surrounded by evil and angry men and a chaotic crowd, YAHSHUA stayed tuned with the Father whose plan was to reconcile men to Himself. No one noticed the extent of His suffering in the agony of His soul. Only His Father knew, but it was His will for Him to suffer; it was the will of the Father to bruise Him and to put Him to grief and make Him sick (Isaiah 53:10a). And yet, He didn’t open His mouth. At His friend, Lazarus’ funeral, when there were only two weeks left for His own, He felt discomforted and sighed repeatedly. He knew what was coming next for Him. John reports that He sighing repeatedly and deeply disquieted, approached the tomb. (John 11:38). The thought of His soon coming suffering weighted down on Him. While going to the tomb, again sighing repeatedly and deeply, disquieted, YAHSHUA approached the tomb. It was a

cave and a boulder lay against it (John 11:38). No one knew what was in the Savior's heart. His heart hurt for the people there who were sobbing for Lazarus hopelessly. But there stood One Who could give them hope, if only they would believe in Him! In just a few days He Himself would become the Lamb of God on the altar of His ultimate sacrifice to save men from hopelessness and hell.

The Prophet Isaiah in his prophetic utterance, said, He was oppressed; He was afflicted, He was submissive and opened not His mouth like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7). He was the Lamb of God led to His "slaughter." They took Him, broke His bones, put them out of joint and made Him carry the cross that belonged to each of us, yet, He did not open His mouth and submissively followed the way to the altar where He would be sacrificed. He was poured like water, His heart was like wax; softened [with anguish] and melted down within Him; no strength was left in Him; it was like a fragment of clay pottery; His tongue cleaved to His jaws from thirst; and wicked men encompassed Him; a company of evildoers encircled Him; His bones were visible to all the evildoers who gazed at Him, (Ps. 22) but He did not open His mouth. He did not have to prove His innocence to any man. That was not the case here. He came with the purpose to die to set men free from the power of sin. He came to suffer the horror of punishment of sin, in our instead although, He had no such thing as sin. He was not born as a result of men's doing. He was born from a virgin to whom the Holy Spirit overshadowed with power, when He came upon her (Luke 1: 35). Son of God, that He was.

The apostle Peter in one of his letters encourages us to consider an honor to suffer for Christ saying, But insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, rejoice, so that when His glory is revealed, you may also rejoice with triumph. If you are censured and suffer abuse [because you bear] the name of Christ, blessed [are you] because the Spirit of glory, the Spirit of God is resting upon you... if [one is ill-treated and suffers] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but give glory to God that he is [deemed worthy to suffer] in this name. Therefore, those who are ill-treated and suffer in accordance with God's will must do right and commit their souls to the One Who created [them] and will never fail [them] (I Peter 4: 13-14, 16). We have been called to suffer for our Lord, YAHSHUA Messiah without opening our mouth to complain. Paul and Silas after struck with many blows, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. However, they did not open their mouths to complain, but sung hymns of praise to God as a testimony to other prisoners. That caused God to act in their favor with a sudden and great earthquake, which shook the very foundations of the prison, opening the prisons' doors (Acts 16:23-26).

Knowing how to suffer for love of our Savior is rewarding in the heaven's realm in due time. It constitutes a great testimony of our faith to the world when we suffer without opening our mouth, as He did in His death's hours. As Paul said, And if we are [His] children, then we are [His] heirs also; heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory; for I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us and in us and for us and conferred on us! (Rom. 8:17-18). Looking away to YAHSHUA, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith

and is also its Finisher. He, for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds. You have not yet struggled and fought agonizingly against sin, nor have you yet resisted and withstood to the point of pouring out your [own] blood. (Heb. 12:2-4). All of that without opening His mouth!

The joy has been set before us, when our Savior died to give us eternal life with Him. Nothing we suffer here in this world will take away our joy, our hope in Him. That should be enough to strengthen us to endure to the end when we will be rewarded for suffering for Him. He did it for us without opening His mouth; He did with love that ran down to the entire world. His blood, yes, His blood which has never lost its life, neither the power to save. The love for our Savior should constrain us to suffer for Him with joy looking forward to His promises of redemption, for He Who promised will do it! Do you believe?