

Name: _____

Date: _____

God Saves, Chapter 7: Picking Up the Cross: Martyrdom ***Study Guide***

Directions: Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it. Enter the missing word or words for the fill-in-the-blank questions.

Introduction: *The Many Faces of Human Suffering*

1. What are four examples of human suffering which the author identifies here?

2. Why does the author highlight the following sentence: *People in poor nations face suffering in the form of lack of shelter, water, food, and medical care, and political and religious persecution?*

3. Why does the choice to accept or reject Jesus and his Gospel bring suffering either way?

4. St. Augustine caused his mother, St. _____, pain in two profound instances. One was when he considered Christian _____ but instead adopted belief in a heresy called _____. On another occasion, Monica was planning to travel with him to _____, where he had accepted a _____ position in Rome. However, he left without telling her, leaving her _____.

5. In Milan, Monica was reassured by St. _____, the bishop, that her son "shall not _____." Eventually, after being instructed in the _____ by Ambrose, he was baptized. Monica had arranged for Augustine to _____ a Christian woman but instead he surprised her by taking a vow of _____ and becoming a _____. Prior to her death, she requested only that she be remembered at the _____ of the Lord.

6. True or False? The author Brandon Vogt observes something totally unique about Christianity: a God who becomes one of us and willingly suffers with his people.

Section 1: *Why Did God the Father Allow His Son to Suffer?*

7. What is kenosis, and how is it associated with the life of Jesus Christ?

8. One of the reasons Jesus _____ himself by becoming man was to be in _____ with us sinners and to show the gravity of _____. He did this _____ ever having sinned himself and to show us the _____ of sin; our sins have _____ consequences and cannot be _____ as unimportant.

9. True or False? Because the workings of God's mysterious plan were predestined, the free choices of human beings were not needed to complete the workings of God's plan.

10. Read the 3-part section about looking at God the Father's plan for permitting Jesus to suffer and die, and circle True or False appropriately based on your understanding of this section.

10a True False The people who put Jesus to death did so for essentially the same reasons.

10b True False Because he was human, Jesus did not understand the immensity of his suffering.

10c True False Theologians suggest that one of the reasons God allows suffering is that he can produce an even greater good from it.

10d True False We face the same temptations—greed, jealousy, politics, and false obedience—as those people in the Gospels responsible for his death.

10e True False The evil and sinful intentions and actions of Jesus's opponents could not thwart the Father's plan.

10f True False The Jewish elders understood that Jesus's description of himself as YHWH showed his close relation to God the Father.

10g True False Jesus's motivation in accepting his suffering was to do what is pleasing to the Father.

10h True False The blame for Jesus's suffering and death rests solely on the shoulders of those who participated in his execution, not on those who continue to sin today.

Section 2: A New Meaning of Suffering

- 11.** Christ _____ the world from both sin and suffering and in doing so has given new _____ to suffering and death. While suffering previously was _____, it is now the source of something great: our redemption and _____ life. Mysteriously, if his _____ has meaning, so too does _____. Suffering can _____ us to Christ and unite us with his redemptive Passion.
- 12.** True or False? Bishop Kevin Rhoades asserts that Christ achieved redemption completely and brought it to a close.
- 13.** True or False? Our own suffering can be part of Christ's work of redemption.
- 14.** What was Jesus's warning to his disciples recorded in the Gospel of Mark?
- 15.** The USCCB has identified several large-scale issues where Catholics are under attack for their beliefs and practices. Summarize the attacks identified here.
- Adoption and Foster Care—
 - New laws—
 - Vandalism against churches—
 - Conscience rights for medical professionals—
 - Free speech—
- 16.** Accepting suffering such as _____ cultivates the virtue of fortitude, it is not a sign of _____. Fortitude helps us to face the

_____ of making difficult choices based on
 _____. It strengthens our _____ to
 pursue the good and right, even in _____ circumstances. Every
 moral _____ we make has an effect on both ourselves and
 _____.

17. How do people sometimes respond to the Catholic teaching that a person's suffering is valuable because Christ's suffering was valuable?

18. How is it possible that we can participate in Christ's own suffering?

19. True or False? In Jesus, God is simultaneously and absolutely present to us and absolutely beyond us.

Section 3: *The Rewards of Suffering*

20. The _____ of suffering is related to God's
 _____ and is closely connected to redemption. Sometimes it is only through
 our _____ that we reopen the lines of _____
 with God. When we experience emotional, _____, or physical
 suffering, God reminds us of his _____, sometimes speaking
 loudly and clearly to us _____ that pain and suffering.

21. True or False? The story of the man who was blind from birth teaches us that he was blind because of the sins of his parents.

22. Briefly explain the two lenses through which Christians view suffering positively.

23. True or False? The stories of the raising of Lazarus and the daughter of the synagogue official reveal that Jesus's reaction to death was to accept it.

- 24.** What two things are important for us to remember about death?
- 25.** True or False? Birth initiates us into the Paschal Mystery which we share in most fully in the Eucharist.
- 26.** We all sometimes face _____ from family, friends, and acquaintances. _____ too experienced rejection both his hometown of _____ and from many of the Chosen People living in _____. But throughout his earthly life Jesus taught us how to _____ others who cause us to suffer. He taught us to neither distance ourselves or to seek _____ from those who have harmed us.
- 27.** The prophecy of Simeon at Jesus's presentation in the Temple was the first of Mary's seven sorrows. Write the words of Simeon below.
- 28.** The Seven Sorrows of Mary was a devotion practiced by Catholics early in Church history. What three titles has the devotion held on down through the centuries?
- 29.** What is the meaning of the Holy Cross motto in Latin *Ave Crux, Spes Unica*, and what idea or image does it suggest?
- 30.** True or False? Not all the Seven Sorrows are necessarily found in the Gospel narratives.
- 31.** Explain the two things that the Seven Sorrows of Mary remind us to do.

Section 4: *Suffering for Christ to the Point of Death*

- 32.** True or False? Martyrdom is characterized by endurance associated with bravery and strength.
- 33.** True or False? While there were a great number of Christians killed in the persecutions by the Muslim Empires, there were more Christian martyrs in the twentieth century than all the previous centuries combined.
- 34.** True or False? Martyrdom does not simply mean dying for the sake of any worthy cause.
- 35.** True or False? For someone like Fr. Jacques Hamel to be considered a martyr it must first be determined that he voluntarily accepted the suffering leading to death because of his faith in Christ and, second, whether the persecutor was motivated by a hatred of the Christian faith.
- 36.** Briefly explain the three types of martyrdom noted below.
- White martyrdom —
 - Green martyrdom —
 - Red martyrdom —
- 37.** True or False? The research concerning the life and death of Fr. Jacques Hamel may or may not recognize his heroic Christian witness.
- 38.** Fr. Blake states, “As sacred as life is, it is not the supreme good.” What, does the author suggest, is another way of saying this?