**Intro to the Marian Martyrs**

They paid a price Luther, Calvin, & Knox, never paid. Followed Tyndale &, like he, they died at stake. 1555-1558. We likely will be in this same situation. Focusing on these martyrs should serve as concrete in our feet when the opportunity to suffer for Christ comes more fully.

**11 QUESTIONS**:

1. **WHO WAS BLOODY MARY?** She was the Queen of England from 1553-1558 – “Reign of Terror”. Staunch Catholic who hated Protestants whom she killed. Her bro reigned prior to her, and he was a strong Protestant. Her ascension to throne meant a rapid and radical shift to Catholicism in England.
2. **WHAT DID MARY ENACT?** She was zealous, and narrow minded in the extreme. She put a stop to all Protestant worship, and removed all from leadership. John Knox and John Fox [author of Fox’s Book of Martyrs] had to flee England.
3. **WHAT FURY DID THIS WOMEN UNLEASH?** She issued a royal order to put to death reformed heretics. Leaders of protestant movement were told to recant or be burned. Businessmen and common workers, along with woman and children were killed at the stake.
4. **WHAT IS A MARTYR?** Cain was 1ST. Prophets in OT. Isaiah. Jesus. LK 11:47-50. Heb 11:37. Martyr, Greek, is derived from *martus*. Synonymous with believers in early church. Stephen, Acts 7-8. James, Paul. 2 Tim 4:6. Rev 6:9 – martyrs under throne cuz of Word of God and their testimony. 11 out of 12 apostles. From Gen 4 to Rev we see the testimony of followers of Christ martyred for their faith.
5. **HOW WERE THEY MARTYRED?** Imprisoned, prosecuted, condemned, marched thru streets where they lived. If they were pastors, they were marched on a parade thru their parish. A stake was placed in the ground in front of the church. They were chained to the stake, set on fire, and gun power would blow their heads off. Nothing left to bury. Thousands lined the streets, i.e. John Rogers. If a pastor, their flock would encourage him. Others would taunt and mock. Public spectacle of extraordinary measure. Statement – this is what will happen to you if you hold to justification by faith.
6. **HOW MANY WERE MARTYRED?** At least 300 Protestant believers, but likely higher. 100 died in prison before they even got to the stake.
7. **WHEN WERE THEY MARTYRED?** 1555 – 71; 1556– 89; 1557 – 88; 1558 – 40. Last week of her life, 5 were burned.
8. **WHO WERE MARTYRED?** Some of most influential leaders of England. Thomas Cramer – highest ranking member of clergy in England. John Rogers – completed translation work of Tyndale. 4 bishops, 21 more members of ministry – preachers. In addition, some 200 businessmen and common laborers. 54 women. 4 children. Anyone who would deny mass. Vocational jobs – fisherman, maids, weavers, gentleman, barbers, butchers, surgeons, teachers, tailors, saw workers, plumbers, etc,
9. **WHY WERE THEY MARTYRED?** Not for disobedience to Word of God or civil unrest against Queen. They were among finest believers in all of England who most promoted the good of all that was descent. The fundamental issue was their denial of the mass. In Catholic church – blasphemous. Christ’s death not sufficient. Now must continue to shed his blood from heaven to make an ongoing sacrifice for sin. Hocus pocus – bread literally become His body, and cup & its contents = blood. Mystically but in real way flowing from wounded side of Jesus Christ into the cup. Eating the literal body and blood of Christ continually sacrificed in heaven. Death not once and for all. Over the very essence of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ, a hill they must die on.
10. **WHERE WERE THEY MARTYRED?** All over England. All of the land was stained by their blood.
11. **WHAT DO WE LEARN?** How quickly government policies can change overnight.

* We must anchor ourselves now. Circumstances can change in a matter of weeks or days. The possibility of severe persecution should not stretch our imagination.
* Religion without the new birth is a cruel monster. False gospel. Religious, nonetheless. Had Bibles, sang, as religious as Pharisees. But cruelest people on earth are those who are religious without salvation. Religious zeal without true conversion that is a deadly threat to the safety of others. Bloody Mary acted in the name of the Church, of Christ, of Christianity. Religion is the enemy. Only hope for United States is the preaching of the gospel of Christ.
* Through many tribulations we enter the kingdom of God. High price to pay for being a follower of Jesus Christ. Are we willing to pay the price? All who desire to be godly will be persecuted. In the world you shall receive tribulation. We are not to be those who only follow Lord when things are going well in our lives. Is our faith real? The Lord gives a greater grace – when the time comes, He will give you the grace you need.
* It is as we study these martyrdoms, that we gain an eternal perspective. It is healthy. J. Edwards, 70 resolution, #10 – When I feel pain to think of the pain of martyrdom and of hell. We have hardly suffered at all compared to what we are going to look at. We have never had a bad day compared to what we are going to look at. We can have a fainting fit over what is nothing. Our trials are real. But we must keep an eternal perspective. Focus on the martyrs will keep my eyes on the Lord and not on myself. Spiritual maturity is brought about in our lives. We grow up as we look at what they faced. By comparison, what we are going through is much smaller. Our trials can become bigger than what they are, but they are kept in proper perspective. Gravitas, weightiness. Anchor for our soul. Deep roots in Christ no matter what trials, James 1:3+. We do not grow spiritually during times of prosperity. We need to feel something of what they felt.

**Principles To Be Gleaned**

1. **Those who suffer for the Lord will receive great eternal rewards**.

**Matthew 5:11–12 -** “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. **12** “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Mark 10:29–30 -**  Jesus said, “Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, **30** but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.

1. **Christ will supply the grace when it is needed to suffer for our faith even unto death**.

**1 Corinthians 10:13 -** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

**2 Timothy 4:18 -** The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Acts 7:54–60 -** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him. **55** But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; **56** and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” **57** But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears and rushed at him with one impulse. **58** When they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him; and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul. **59** They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!” **60** Then falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them!” Having said this, he fell asleep.

**Romans 8:35–39 -** Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? **36** Just as it is written, “For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; We were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” **37** But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. **38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. **The Marion Martyrs should motivate us to strive against indwelling sin.**

**Hebrews 12:1–4 -** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **3** For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. **4** You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;

1. **Our call to salvation is at the same time a call for us to suffer martyrdom if this is God’s will**.

**Matthew 16:24–26 -** Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. **25** “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. **26** “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

**Matthew 10:16 -** “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.  **. . . Matthew 10:26-28** “Therefore do not fear them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. **27** “What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. **28** “Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

**Luke 9:23 -** And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me. **Luke 14:26 -** “If anyone comes to Me, & does not hate his own father & mother & wife & children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.

1. **False religion is an evil tool of Satan often directed against the Church with great cruelty**:

**Luke 11:47–50 -** “Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and it was your fathers who killed them. **48** “So you are witnesses and approve the deeds of your fathers; because it was they who killed them, and you build their tombs. **49** “For this reason also the wisdom of God said, ‘I will send to them prophets and apostles, and some of them they will kill and some they will persecute, **50** so that the blood of all the prophets, shed since the foundation of the world, may be charged against this generation,

1. **The circumstances in the country could change rapidly and we should fortify ourselves to suffer even to the point of dying for him**.

**1 Peter 4:1–2 -** Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, **2** so as to live the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

1. **It is a privilege to suffer in our faith that we might gain Christ**. **Colossians 1:24 -** Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.

**Philippians 3:8 -** More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, **. . .** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;

1. **The example of the Marian Martyrs should inspire us to live for Him rather than for ourselves**.

**Hebrews 11:35–38 - 35** Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection; **36** and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated **38** (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

**2 Corinthians 5:14–15 -** For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; **15** and He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.