

The Cost of Mercy
and the Path of Obedience

**THERE ARE MOMENTS
WHEN YOU FEEL DESPISED
AND REJECTED BY OTHERS.**

Not just overlooked—treated
“as of no account.” People
don’t say it out loud, but you
can feel it: they “held Him in
contempt,” and you start to
wonder if you matter at all.



**THE PROPHET ISAIAH DOESN'T SANITIZE
THIS. HE NAMES THE WEIGHT.**

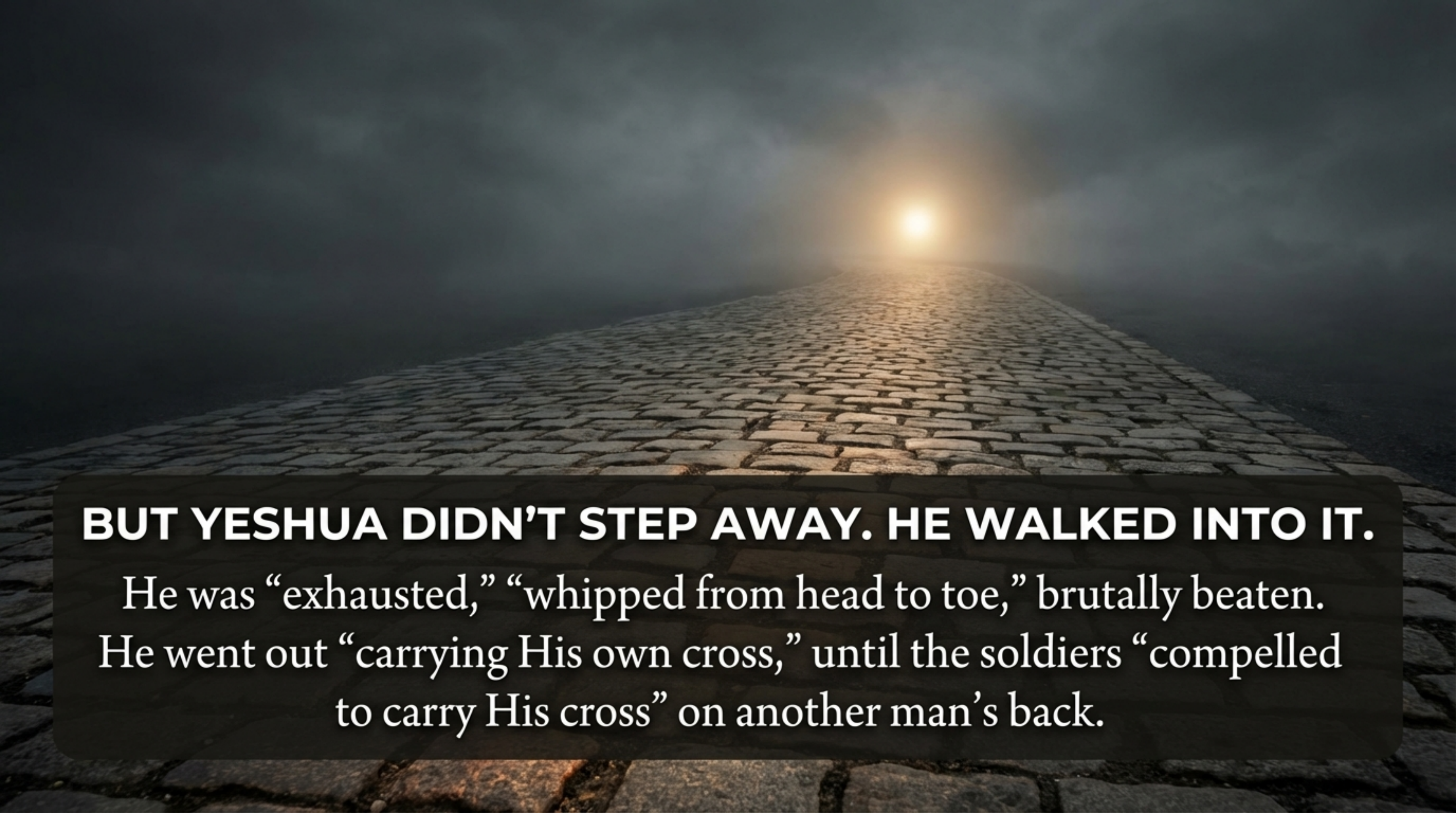
**A MAN OF PAIN AND SORROWS
SICKNESS AND DESPAIR
ANGUISH AND GRIEF**



And then the hardest line: “So we hid our faces from Him.”

It’s one thing to be rejected. It’s another to realize how quickly we reject, too. We avert our gaze from suffering. We don’t want to be associated with the ugly parts. We protect our comfort.

DON'T HIDE YOUR FACE.

A perspective view of a cobblestone path leading towards a bright, glowing light source in the distance, set against a dark, cloudy sky. The path is made of irregular stones and recedes into the distance, creating a strong sense of depth. The light source is positioned directly in the center of the path's horizon, casting a warm glow that illuminates the path and the surrounding clouds.

BUT YESHUA DIDN'T STEP AWAY. HE WALKED INTO IT.

He was “exhausted,” “whipped from head to toe,” brutally beaten. He went out “carrying His own cross,” until the soldiers “compelled to carry His cross” on another man’s back.

A close-up photograph of a crown of thorns, which is a dark, gnarled branch with several sharp, pointed thorns. It is resting on a deep purple, plush velvet fabric. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the thorns and the softness of the fabric.

**AND STILL, THEY
MOCKED HIM. THEY
SHOWED NO MERCY.**

They dressed Him in purple,
put on a “crown of thorns,” and
beat His head again and again.
This is the cost of human will
when it wants its way.

MERCY HAS A COST.

The Question

When you see a Savior “shunned”
and treated “as if without value,”
will you also “hid our faces from
Him”?

And about your own cross:

How can you put your
will to death in order to
obey the will of God?

THE CROSS ISN'T JUST A SCENE TO FEEL SORRY ABOUT.

“The cross is the mercy seat of atonement.” God shows mercy, while “Men gripped by sin are merciless.” The proof is not abstract: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



THE INVITATION IS CLEAR.

To “lay down their own will and allow the will of Christ to live through our hearts, minds, and acts.”



OBEDIENCE STOPS THE INFECTION.



TRY THIS TODAY.

- 1. Name one place** you've chosen your will over God's will—no excuses.
- 2. Obey God in one specific action** that costs you something (a hard apology, a clean boundary, a truthful word).
- 3. Keep “goodness and mercy and forgiveness in the earth”** by giving mercy where you're tempted to withhold it.



**CARRY YOUR CROSS
BEHIND HIM.**