And if that's who God is, if the Lamb is not just a moment in history, but the eternal image of divine power, then we must let go of the illusion that God leads through coercion. The Lamb does not force obedience. He invites love.

What I see is a God who steps into suffering rather than avoiding it, who leads through mercy rather than might, and whose power lies not in domination, but in the transformative strength of covenant love.

From the beginning, people have struggled to accept a Messiah who suffers. The religious leaders of Jesus' day couldn't reconcile their expectations of a warrior king with the reality of a foot-washing, cross-bearing Savior. And we, centuries later, are still tempted to make the same mistake.

We see this when Christians align Jesus with political domination or military conquest. We see it when churches prize charisma and control over humility and servanthood. We see it when believers support the empire, not as a necessary evil, but as though it were ordained salvation.

Let's be clear, whenever we replace the Lamb with the Lion of our own making, we have left the gospel.

History shows it: The Crusades were fought under the sign of the cross, yet they trampled the Lamb's teachings. Colonial empires baptized conquest in the name of Christ while rejecting the very way of Christ. Even now, some Christians call for strength, nationalism, and violence, forgetting that the One we follow *refused to call down twelve legions of angels*.

The Lamb's way is always countercultural. It always challenges our impulse to win, to dominate, to be right at all costs. But it is the only path that reflects the heart of God.

What I see is a Church and a world that often finds the Lamb too inconvenient, too soft, too slow. But the Lamb's way is not impractical. It is eternal. And every other power will fall before it.

We tend to separate suffering and victory, as if one negates the other. But the resurrection of the Lamb tells a different story.

When Jesus rose, He did not hide His scars. He showed them**. "Put your finger here,"** He said to Thomas. He was not ashamed of the wounds, because they were the proof of love. Not just that He suffered, but that He suffered in love.

The message of the Lamb is this: love is stronger than death, but love doesn't skip over suffering. It walks through it. It redeems it.

This has powerful implications for us: Your pain is not wasted if it's offered in love. Your endurance is not meaningless if it reflects the Lamb's faithfulness. Your scars are not signs of defeat; they may be the most beautiful testimony of your transformation. In the kingdom of the Lamb, wounds are not erased—they are glorified because they are part of your witness.

What I see is a world that tells us to avoid suffering at all costs, but a Savior who walks straight into it, not for punishment's sake, but to show that love is never defeated by pain. Love doesn't just survive suffering. Love transfigures it.

We must always trust that the Lamb will always stand. So many midweek devotions offer us comfort, and we need comfort. But this message calls us to more than comfort. It calls us to follow the Lamb wherever He goes (Rev. 14:4).

That road may include misunderstanding. It may consist of rejection. It will undoubtedly include sacrifice. But it also includes glory. It includes resurrection. And it leads to the throne of the One who still bears wounds, because He still bears love.

This week, remember, God does not overpower. He invites. The Lamb's way will always be counter to the world's. Suffering, when joined to love, becomes sacred.

And if you have scars, if you are weary, if you are misunderstood, look to the Lamb. He knows. He still chooses the path of love. And He walks it with you. Did Jesus outgrow the Lamb? The answer is a resounding no.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool