

# PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

## ***Revealing God – III***

Happy **Saint Patrick's Day!**

- **Do** you celebrate it?
- **What** do you celebrate?
- **How** do you celebrate it?

.....

To celebrate it properly it would be helpful to be **captured,**

- **Stolen** from your family
- **Oppressed and abused**
- **Forced into slavery**

.....

Then, after escaping and winning your freedom...

Voluntarily **return to your oppressors** to demonstrate the extravagant love of Christ

**Extreme, right?**

And yet, that is what he is famous for

.....

I admit I have never been **oppressed**

I have never been **held against my will**

I have never been **forced to serve someone else**

I have known **nothing but freedom** my whole life

I am not guilty of that. **I'm thankful**

.....

How can I know what it is like to suffer those things?

Only by **believing someone who has**

*Saint Patrick is not our only example*

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**Joseph** – Genesis 37-50

- **Sold as a slave** by his own brothers
- Taken to a foreign country & culture
- **Falsely accused and punished**
- **For 17 years**  
(after his prophetic dream of greatness)

Then **rescued, forgave & rewarded** his wicked brothers

.....

Of course – **this is what Jesus did**

He suffered and died **for the benefit of those who did it to Him**

So we're called to live our life "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame"

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**Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Bonhoeffer made it his purpose to **love his Nazi guards as Christ would**

He said that if he didn't, **he had no right to preach Christ to them**

*I suspect I would have been too weak, and become a resistance fighter*

*After coming to faith I asked God why I didn't end up in prison. He said He protected me because I couldn't have handled it. It would have destroyed me.*

.....

**Uncle Tom**

*Often used as an insult by those who don't actually know the story*

*Simon Legree was the **vicious, brutal slave owner***

*Uncle Tom was **the Christ character** in the story...*

*Who suffered at the hands of a tyrant without resistance **to honor Christ Jesus***

.....

**How** shall we honor and celebrate Saint Patrick?

*That's a great question I want to think of...*

*No matter how small or great the slight I may suffer*

*If we do it well, we'll **do it on purpose.***