

By  
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*The Every Catholic Guy*

## **We Haven't Suffered Enough Yet**

A certain man who had served his employer for many years, was at the point of death. The employer loved the sick workman and came to visit him in the hospital. The employer asked him whether there was anything he could do for him.

"I would like to repay you in some way for your years of loyalty," he said. "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll do everything in my power to give you what you ask."

The sick man answered, "Sir, in my condition there's nothing I can ask for that would mean more to me than this: can you prolong my life just one more day?"

"I can't do that. You know that isn't something I can do. Is there anything else I can do for you?"

The dying man replied, "I've served you faithfully for forty years, yet you can't extend my life by even one day? How I wish I'd been half so faithful serving God! He's my true Master, yet I was lazy in my service to Him who can give me more than one day; He can give me an eternity of happiness. *What a fool I've been!*"

How little of your time do you give to the service of God when compared with the time you spend for yourself and the world! Jesus once said, "For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" (Matthew 16:25-26) This story shows us we should never be negligent and indifferent about our duties toward God, who in the end will give us an eternal reward; whereas, the pleasures, honors and riches of this world will pass away.

We have become a lazy and selfish people, most likely because of our prosperity. Our poorest citizens live far better than the average people of some other countries. Yes, we've had it far too good for far too long, and that prosperity has made us like spoiled children who expect to be pampered and catered to in life. We give lip service to God, yet won't do even the most simple things He asks of us.

Mass attendance on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation is an absolute requirement under pain of mortal sin,<sup>1</sup> yet that isn't a priority for most of us. We go on vacation, fishing, to family outings, or visit relatives rather than give God the short hour He requires of us each week. Maybe we skip Holy Mass just because we don't feel like going. "What the heck," we say, "God will understand." He doesn't. He won't.

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<sup>1</sup> The obligation to attend Mass may be excused for a grave reason.

Many Catholics need to change. Well, we all need to change, I suppose, but some more than others. Because God loves us, He gives us many opportunities to make changes in our lives, and usually ample time as well. It would be a good idea to make those changes now.

There is a principle in life to making change. It's called suffering. When people don't live as they should, God usually allows us to experience great suffering. He doesn't permit the suffering for the sake of cruelty, but rather because He loves us. He's just trying to get our attention.

As I've mentioned in this column many times before, I'm a convert to Catholicism. I didn't just wake up one day and say, "Hey, you know, I think today would be a great day to become a Catholic!" No, in order to eventually convert, God had to get my attention.

I was a Baptist when I was a teenager. Once on my own out in the world, I began to realize that Baptist teachings simply didn't make sense. I searched other Christian religions for a while, although never even considering the possibility of the Catholic Church. Each time I found a doctrinal contradiction or logical fallacy in these churches, I moved on to the next denomination. Eventually I gave up altogether and became an agnostic.

I put all of myself into becoming a successful businessman. As my business grew and I earned more and more money, I became more and more proud and arrogant. I had become what Catholic theology calls a practical atheist. That is, I gave lip service to a belief in God, but I lived my life as if He didn't exist. Boy, was that a mistake!

First, I pulled some unethical (although legal) stunts to cheat some other businessmen out of their share of a business venture we were involved in, arrogantly thinking I was smarter than them. First, they all ended up suing me for much more money than I could possibly pay, so I was bankrupt. I hadn't suffered enough yet, though.

In order to cover the money I needed to invest in this can't-lose venture in the first place, I borrowed money on every asset I owned—including my very profitable and debt-free company. When everything came crashing down around me, my creditors took absolutely everything. I went from owning an 8,000 square foot home and several luxury cars, to driving a 13 year old car and living in a small mobile home. But I hadn't suffered enough yet.

Then the woman I was living with left me and took my sons away. She did the right thing, but I was devastated. Still I hadn't suffered enough.

With absolutely nothing left, I began to work up the nerve and plans to commit suicide. I suppose at that point I'd suffered enough to listen to God, because He then sent a man into my life who tricked me into listening to him about Catholicism. After a few months, I made up my mind to convert. The suffering God allowed me to experience had finally brought me to my knees.

Suffering in life is what it takes for hard-headed, proud, arrogant men like me to affect change. What about you? You're probably thinking, "That'll never happen to me, Joe. You made a lot of really bad decisions, and I'm smarter than that." No matter how smart you are, no matter how good the decisions are that you make, God will always permit the suffering you need in order for you to affect change... until He gives you all the time you were allotted from the beginning of your life, just as He did for the man in our story. Then it's too late, and you'll get what you earned. So please listen to Him now, beginning to do all and only what He commands. If you want to learn more about what to do and how to do it, begin attending the free webinars I host each week by visiting [JoeSixpackAnswers.com](http://JoeSixpackAnswers.com) to get on my invitation list.