

# It's Not Easy to be You.

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Guest Speaker, Gary Thomas  
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## What makes your life so difficult?

### 1. Your sin

*James 3:2, Romans 7:15-24, Genesis 4:7, Romans 6:8, Galatians 1:4*

### 2. Social alienation and loneliness

### 3. Injury and sickness

### 4. The sin of others

## God's Response

### 1. The Assurance: I will be your friend

"...I have called you friends..." – *John 15:5*

### 2. The Warning

<sup>1</sup>"All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. <sup>4</sup>I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you." – *John 16:1, 4*

### 3. The Prayer

<sup>15</sup>My prayer is not that you take them out of the world..."

<sup>26</sup>I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them." – *John 17:15, 26*

*(Continues on back)*

## God's Amazing Empathy

### 1. Temptation

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. – *Hebrews 4:15*

### 2. Social alienation

He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.  
Like one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.  
– *Isaiah 53:3*

### 3. Physical suffering

<sup>14</sup> I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted away within me.  
<sup>15</sup> My strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
you lay me in the dust of death.  
<sup>16</sup> Dogs have surrounded me;  
a band of evil men has encircled me,  
they have pierced my hands and my feet.  
– *Psalms 22:14-16*

### 4. The sin of others

But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.  
– *Isaiah 53:5*

Normally this section contains small group questions that relate to the sermon. But this week we wanted to do something completely different – so no questions! I want to encourage you to spend your small group time getting to know each other better. This is an amazing opportunity to talk, catch up, ask a question and pray together. Your group is the best place to experience true community so be a community tonight and enjoy the people God has placed around you. Have a great time! – *Pastor Grant*