

Walking with Jesus: His Death and Resurrection



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"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from me; **yet not My will, but Yours be done.**"

Luke 22:42

Day One: Jesus Prays



Prepare Your Heart

Dear God,

Help me as I read Your Word. Forgive me for my sins so that my heart and mind are clean before You. Speak to my heart and mind that I may know You better and live my life for You. Help me to fall deeper in love with You.

In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen

God sends an angel to strengthen Jesus, but He is so stressed by what is to come that He sweats blood. Can you imagine being so overwhelmed that you sweat blood?

God doesn't often do things the way we think He should. Maybe you get a new job and you have to move away from your friends or you get divorced or your friend gets sick or dies.

Read God's Word

Luke 22:39-46

This is the night Jesus will be betrayed, beaten, tried, and eventually hung on the cross. He knew the cross was not going to be a picnic. So Jesus prays.

He asks God to take the cross from Him. Jesus doesn't want to have to die on the cross. He is asking God if there is any other way to save people from their sins, please do it another way. Yet Jesus says, "Not My will, but Yours be done."

Perhaps things in your life are going well, but you would prefer to do things your way, not God's. Honoring your parents is hard, being patient isn't any fun, so you do it your way.

Jesus is our example. Can we pray with Jesus, "not my will, but Yours?" Can we accept God's plan that is different than our own? Can we do things God's way even though they go against our natural instincts?

Do you think God's plans are trustworthy?

"Father, if You are willing, take this cup from me; **yet not My will, but Yours be done.**"

Luke 22:42

Day One: Jesus Prays continued



Apply it

Read: Isaiah 55:9 and Jeremiah 29:11

1. God's ways and thoughts are
_____ than
yours.

2. God has plans to _____
you and not _____
you, plans to give you _____
and a _____.

3. Do you think you can trust God
when things are difficult? Why or
why not?

4. If you can trust God's plans, how
should you respond to difficult
times?

Pray:

Dear God,

I want to do things Your
way, not mine. Forgive me
for wanting to do things my
way. I promise from today
on to do Your will not my
own.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.

**Journal your own thoughts
and prayers:**

“Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”
Matthew 26:53

Day Two: Jesus is Arrested



Prepare Your Heart

Dear God,

I want to know You better. Clear my mind and heart of distractions. Help me to hear You, learn more about You, and love You more as I read Your word. That I may be changed to be more like You.

In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen

Read God's Word

Matthew 26:47-56

There is Jesus. He is under tremendous pressure. Remember from yesterday's reading that right before he was arrested, he was praying and sweating blood. He knows the cross is waiting for him, he knows one of his best friends is going to betray him, and he knows he could do something about it.

Jesus isn't just a human. As mind-blowing as this truth is, He is fully God AND fully man. In other words He chose to give-up some of His God-ness to come to earth. He limited Himself to flesh that needs food and gets tired, to being

in one place at a time. This was God's plan before time began.

God planned Jesus' death and resurrection. God knew that we would sin, He knew that we would need a savior, and Jesus knew He would die.

Jesus was not at the mercy of those in charge. No He tells us that He could call on God at any moment and more than 12 legions of angels (that is more than 72,000 warriors) would be at His disposal. Jesus at any point during His arrest, trial, and death on the cross could have called out to God the Father and been freed from suffering. He didn't have to do it, but He did. He died so that we could live.

Since Jesus willingly gave His life for you, can you give your life back to Him? Can you wake up each morning asking God what He wants you to do that day? Can you pray that He will help you honor your parents, respect your teachers, and show love to your peers?

Since Jesus was willing to go to the cross for you, do you think you can obey Him as an act of love?

“Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?”
Matthew 26:53

Day Two: Jesus is Arrested

continued



Apply it

Read: John 14:23

1. How do you show Jesus you love Him according to John 14:23?

2. According to John 14:23 what will happen to the one who loves Jesus?

3. How does knowing that God wants a relationship with you make you feel?

4. How does it make you feel that Jesus could have gotten out of the cross, but chose not to?

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank You for being willing to die for me. Help me to walk in humble obedience with you every day. Jesus thank for enduring the cross for me.

In Jesus' Name.
Amen.

Journal your own thoughts and prayers:

“But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor.”
Matthew 27:14

Day Three: Jesus’ Trial



Prepare Your Heart

Dear God,

As I read Your word today, I pray that You will open my heart and mind to better understand Your amazing love for me. Help me focus on You so that my life will be transformed to be more like You.

In Jesus’ Name I pray.

Amen

Read God’s Word

Matthew 26:59-63 and 27:12-14

Jesus was quiet. He stood before people making up lies about Him and He said nothing. Jesus never corrected them or fought them. He just stood there silent. He only answered direct questions, but never did He answer the accusations against Him.

This is not just a group of kids bullying Him around school. This isn’t even a political campaign. No Jesus is in court. He is being accused, falsely, and He is silent.

I am not even silent when one of my kids says something not true about me.

I cannot even begin to imagine remaining quiet while people lied about me so I would receive the death penalty.

Oh but Jesus. He remained silent. Jesus knew that God’s plan included the cross. He trusted God to defend Him.

Jesus’ silence did more than just condemn Him to the cross. It amazed people.

Pilate – the governor – could not believe that Jesus never answered a single charge. He could easily see that Jesus was innocent. Jesus’ silence was different and clearly it made an impact on Pilate.

Do you think you can be silent when you are accused? How about when someone has done something to hurt you?

How might being silent make an impact on those around you? Could your silence amaze someone and help draw them to Christ?

Can you be silent like Jesus?

"But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge – to the great amazement of the governor."
Matthew 27:14

Day Three: Jesus' Trial continued



Apply it

Read: Romans 12:19 Proverbs 17:28

1. According to Romans 12:19 whose job is it to defend us or "avenge" us?

2. How does knowing that God will repay evil done to you help you remain silent before those who have wronged you or made you angry?

3. According to Proverbs 17:28 how does silence help fools? How can this Proverb help you remain silent?

Pray:

Dear God,

Father God, thank You for Jesus' example of silence. Remind me that You defend me better than I can myself. Help me to hold my tongue.

In Jesus' Name.
Amen.

**Journal your own thoughts
and prayers:**

‘Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” So Pilate decide to grant their demand.’ Luke 23:20,21a

Day Four: Jesus’ Sentence



Prepare Your Heart

Dear God,

Open my heart today. As I read Your word and contemplate Jesus being sentenced to the cross, help me to see my part in this story. Help me to know myself better because I know You better. All so that my life will bring You glory.

In Jesus’ Name I pray.

Amen

Read God’s Word

Luke 23:13-25

Jesus is innocent. Everyone knows that. The chief priests have tried to get witnesses to lie about Jesus, but they contradict each other. Pilate, the government official, is impartial. He has no allegiance with the Jews who do not like Jesus’ teachings nor with Jesus’ followers who believe Him to be the Messiah. Pilate knows Jesus is innocent.

These Jewish leaders then stir up the crowds against Jesus. They encourage them to ask Pilate to release Barabbas a murderer and leader of a rebellion, instead of releasing innocent, God-man, Jesus. The crowd screams that Pilate sentence Jesus to death.

Pilate has a choice. We all have a choice. Either Jesus is who He claims to be, He is God, or He is a man deserving of death. Pilate had options, but he followed the crowd and sentenced Jesus to death.

I like to think that if I were Pilate, it would have ended differently. I never would have sent Jesus to the cross. Or I imagine if I were in the crowds that day, I would have shouted to have Barabbas crucified instead of Jesus.

Oh, but the truth is each time I choose my way over God’s way, I prove I would have made the same choice Pilate made. Every harsh word and bad attitude testifies that I would be shouting, “CRUCIFY HIM,” with the crowd.

We all have a choice to make.

Will we accept Jesus as our Savior or go our own way?

Will we allow Jesus to direct our steps all the days of our lives or will we go along with the crowd like Pilate?

'Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" So Pilate decide to grant their demand.' Luke 23:20,21a

Day Four: Jesus' Sentence

continued



Apply it

Read: James 4:4

1. What choice is mentioned in James 4:4?

2. If you are a friend to the world who is your enemy?

3. Have you decided to choose Christ? If not, talk to your parents, Pastor Travis, etc. If so, are you living every day for Him? What can you do today to choose friendship with God not the world?

Pray:

Dear God,

Father God, I want to choose Jesus and not the world. Help me to live life with You as my center. Forgive me when I fail and help me cling to You.

In Jesus' Name.
Amen.

Journal your own thoughts and prayers:

"Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"
Luke 23:34

Day Five: Jesus' Crucifixion



Prepare Your Heart

Dear God,

Thank You for Your word. Thank You that You love me and want me to get to know You. Help me to understand Your word today in a new way so that I may be changed to be more like Jesus.

In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen

Read God's Word

Luke 23:32-34

Jesus, the Creator of the Universe, was beaten, mocked, spit upon, and a mob -who had earlier in the week hailed Him as King – rioted until He was handed over to be crucified.

Innocent, perfect, sinless Jesus was executed between two criminals. Crucifixion was a painful way to die. The Romans devised this form of execution to be as painful as possible. They wanted to scare the people into obeying their laws.

Unjustly accused, deserving of praise and adoration, Jesus is nailed to a wooden cross.

Then Jesus does something so humble, so amazing. He asks God the Father to forgive those responsible for his death.

He tells God the Father that they do not know what they are doing.

From my perspective they knew exactly what they were doing. Pilate gave into the rioting mob, the chief priests were jealous and wanted Jesus dead and forgotten.

Honestly, we put Jesus on the cross. Not some angry religious sect, or burly Roman soldiers.

No it is our sin that hammered the nails, our voices raised in unison. CRUCIFY HIM! Each time we choose our way and say no to God's way, we drive in the nails, spit in His face.

Each time Jesus says, "Father forgive them they do not know what they are doing."

If Jesus can forgive us as we jeer and mock at Him, can we forgive those who hurt us?

"Jesus said, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'"
Luke 23:34

Day Five: Jesus' Crucifixion continued



Apply it

Read: Romans 5:8 Ephesians 4:32

1. Christ died for us and forgave us while we were what (Romans 5:8)?
2. How does knowing that Christ forgave you while you were His enemy make you feel?
3. According to Ephesians 4:32 how are we to forgive each other?
4. Do you think that means you have to forgive people while they are still being mean to you? (Remember what Romans 5:8 says about when Jesus died for us)

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you so much for Your forgiveness. I do not deserve it. Lord help me to forgive others like Jesus does.

In Jesus' Name.
Amen.

**Journal your own thoughts
and prayers:**

“...Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”
John 19:30

Day Six: Jesus’ Death



Prepare Your Heart

Dear God,

Help me to focus on You as I read Your word today. Open my heart and mind that I may know You better. Lord may my life be forever changed so that I can honor You in all I say and do.

In Jesus’ Name I pray.

Amen

Read God’s Word

John 19:28-30

Jesus hung on the cross for about six hours tortuous hours. The nails in His hands and feet are near nerves. In order to breathe, He had to pull up with His arms and push with His legs to inhale. This put pressure on the nerves near the nails.

Remember what it feels like when you hit your elbow hard on something? Jesus experienced similar pain with each breath He took.

Jesus was also been beaten and His back was raw. As He pulled Himself up to take a breath, His back rubbed the rough wood of the cross. He endured this physical pain for about six hours.

Jesus didn’t only experience physical pain on the cross. During this time God laid the punishment for our sins on Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “He [God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf.”

As Jesus hung on the cross, He endured our spiritual punishment for sin. He experienced separation from God the Father so that we would not have to experience it.

His physical and spiritual suffering were so severe that at one point He cries out, “My God, My God why have you forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27:46)

Jesus is no wimp. He experienced extreme physical and spiritual suffering. When He fulfilled the sentence against us and completed the prophecy written about Him, He gave up His Spirit and died.

How does knowing what Jesus did for you on the cross make you feel towards Him? My heart overflows in love and that love results in a life of humble obedience to Him.

“...Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”
John 19:30

Day Six: Jesus’ Death continued



Apply it

Read: Isaiah 53:5-6 and Romans 12:1-2

1. According to Isaiah 53:5-6, why was “he” pierced? Who do you think “he” is?
2. How does it make you feel that God caused our sin or inequity to fall on him? (Isa 53:6-7)
3. According to Romans 12:1-2 what are we to do in view of God’s mercy (or what Jesus did on the cross for us) ?
4. What are we able to determine after our minds are transformed? How does that make you feel? (Romans 12:1-2)

Pray:

Dear God,
Thank You for willingly dying on the cross and paying the penalty for my sin. Help me to respond to Your mercy by living a life of worship, obedience, and sacrifice to Your will. I do not want to do things my way, I want to do them Yours.

In Jesus’ Name.
Amen.

Journal your own thoughts and prayers:

"He is not here; He has risen!"

Luke 24:6

Day Seven: Jesus Rises



Prepare Your Heart

Dear God,

Thank You for the Bible that tells me about You. As I read Your word today help me to understand what You are saying and help me to see how I need to let You change my life that I may honor You in all I say and do. May I never be the same again.

In Jesus' Name I pray.

Amen

Read God's Word

Luke 24:1-12

For Jesus' friends the last few days have been brutal. Judas, one of them, has betrayed Jesus. Jesus has been falsely accused, sentenced to death, and crucified. Peter, their leader has denied even knowing Jesus. Their hopes that Jesus was the Messiah, the Chosen One, the Savior for Israel are crushed. They are afraid, confused, and deeply saddened.

It is notable that women were the ones that heard of Jesus' resurrection first. Women were not well thought of in these times. I am sure that if this story were made up that one of the disciples, even Peter would have been the first.

Instead God chose a group of women, who wanted to honor Jesus' dead body by wrapping spices around it, to first see the empty tomb.

The angel tells them the unbelievable news that Jesus is no longer dead, but alive!

Physically the fact that Jesus rose from the dead is amazing. Even today, with our medical technology, we cannot make the dead alive again.

Oh but there is more going on than just the physical things.

Just like when Jesus died on the cross, He was also spiritually bearing the punishment for the sins of the whole world.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved that God accepted His payment for our sins. It also shows that we have the hope of life after death. We have the hope of eternity in heaven through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

1 Corinthians 15:55 says, "Where, O death, is your victory?" In Jesus we have victory – over sin and death.

“He is not here; He has risen!”

Luke 24:6

Day Seven: Jesus Rises

continued



Apply it

Read: : 1 Corinthians 15:17-19
and 1 John 5:4-5

1. According to 1 Cor 15:17-19,
why is it important that Jesus was
raised from the dead?

2 Why do you think if we do not
have the hope of heaven we are to
be pitied? (no wrong answer just
what do you think)

3. According to 1 John 4:4-5 who
has overcome the world or sin?

4. Since we through Jesus have
overcome the world, how do you
think your life should be
different?

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank You that Jesus rose
again from the dead. Thank
You for the victory I have in
Him through His death and
rising again. Help me to live
my life in that spiritual
victory. Help me to live a
victorious life in obedience
to You. May all I do honor
You.

In Jesus' Name.

Amen.

**Journal your own thoughts
and prayers:**