

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK
DAILY DEVOTIONALS



You're invited!

We invite you to join us in celebrating Holy Week at Fellowship with Bible reading, reflection, and prayer. These daily devotionals will take us on a journey to the cross.

If Jesus could survive betrayal, rejection, and death, then what would it prove? What would we gain? There's a lot at stake—if Christ is the Son of God, then only He can offer eternal life.

Our prayer is that Christ's journey will inspire you to fully embrace the gospel and joyfully live out of the benefits of your salvation!

Celebrating Holy Week, Daily Devotionals by Mike and Debbie McCrum.

Scripture quotations taken from

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PALM SUNDAY

PLOT TO KILL

BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 26:1-5; MARK 14:1-2; LUKE 22:1-6;

JOHN 11:45-48; 12:12-17

The chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people. If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him." The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" So, the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"

REFLECTION

Why did the Jewish leaders want to kill Jesus? Because Jesus claimed He was the Messiah, the Son of God—that was blasphemy. He was a constant threat to their religious system. He certainly showed lack of respect for their traditions. He was a threat to their way of life and the freedom they enjoyed under Roman rule. Further, they despised Him because of the people He socialized with—tax collectors, prostitutes, sinners. So then, why do you think the crowds were supporting Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, help me to recognize opposition as opportunities to openly tell why I believe in You. Amen.



MONDAY

WHY THIS WASTE?

BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 26:6-13; MARK 14:3-9; JOHN 12:1-8

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When Judas and the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, where this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

REFLECTION

Mary was acutely aware that Jesus' life would soon be cut short. She must have gained this insight while sitting at his feet and listening to all that He was teaching. She expressed her love and thanks to Jesus for Himself and for His restoring Lazarus to life. Judas Iscariot objected to this lavish waste and the other disciples agreed with him. This sets the stage for the events to follow. Why do you think she would go to such great expense, perhaps a lifetime of savings? Name a time you went to great expense to share the gospel or show someone you loved them.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, for the sake of the gospel, I give all my love to You, so that others may know You. Amen.



TUESDAY

LAST SUPPER

BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 26:26-29; MARK 14:22-25; LUKE 22:7-21

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

REFLECTION

Why was Jesus so eager to eat the Passover with the disciples? This would be His last meal with them. Just as Israel was redeemed from Egyptian slavery hundreds of years earlier, Jesus would permanently release us from death. The lamb's blood painted on the doorpost in Egypt now points ahead to Jesus' spilled blood on the cross for all human sin. Jesus is describing His death as the start of a new covenant with God and man. He provided lasting symbols to remember this by—the cup (His blood) and the bread (His body). What does Jesus' sacrifice mean to you?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for sacrificing Your life for me and reminding me always that You have forever released me from sin and death. Amen.



WEDNESDAY

DEMONIC BETRAYAL

BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 26:14-16, 47-56, 69-75; 27:3-10; MARK 14:26-31, 43-50, 66-72; LUKE 22:31-34, 47-62; JOHN 12:18-38; 18:1-11, 15-18, 25-27

After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, “I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me. It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered him. Then Judas went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. He asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” So, they counted out for him thirty silver coins. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over. Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

REFLECTION

The plot to kill Jesus thickens when Satan enters Judas and he betrays Jesus—selling out for Blood Money. Thirty pieces of silver was the redemption price paid for a slave (Exodus 21:32). This same amount was also prophesied as the price for the services of the rejected Shepherd (Zechariah. 11:12-13). The religious leaders would soon be delivered from their biggest problem—Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus told Peter that He was praying for him because Satan was going to put him through difficult times. The rest of the disciples deserted Him at his trial. False witnesses were subpoenaed for his trial. It is clear that Satan tries to get in our way of the gospel. How has Satan caused you to sell out for personal gain or be fearful to witness for Jesus?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I have fallen for Satan's strategies. Help me to live a life of integrity and to openly confess You as my Savior. Amen.



THURSDAY

THE BIG SURRENDER

BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 26:36-39; MARK 14:32-38; LUKE 22:39-44

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

REFLECTION

In Jesus' journey to the cross He encountered agonizing physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse. He asked the Father to be released from dying, but His request was denied. He became obedient to the cross and surrendered His will to Him. The act of surrender is a painful, gut-wrenching moment when our heart is broken, and we submit to the Father's interests. Name some things you've had to let go of and surrender to God.

PRAYER

Father, I give You permission to do whatever You need to do to make me an instrument of change in the lives of people—for Your glory. Amen.



GOOD FRIDAY

FATAL REJECTION

BIBLE READING

**MATTHEW 27:1-49; MARK 15:6-36; LUKE 22:63-71; 23:1-43;
JOHN 19:1-27; CF. JEREMIAH 27:9**

“What shall I do then with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” Then, they led him away to crucify him. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “But he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.” From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”—which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

REFLECTION

It was one thing to be rejected by the Jewish leaders, His brothers, His friends, and Satan, but the ultimate rejection came from the Father. The Father would not rescue Him. He turned His back on the Son. If Jesus doesn’t die, then He is a liar—a promise breaker. The gospel would not be told. People could not be saved, marriages could not be restored, families could not be reconciled. Can you think of a time when you felt abandoned by God and how He allowed this to further the gospel?

PRAYER

Father, please make me willing to accept rejection, if necessary, for the advance of the gospel. Accomplish in me what You desire to do through me. Amen.



SATURDAY

HOLY SHAKE-UP

BIBLE READING

MATTHEW 27:50-56; MARK 15:37-41; LUKE 23:44-49; JOHN 19:28-37

Jesus cried out again in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people. When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

REFLECTION

Wow! Talk about an earth-shattering experience! When Jesus died there was a great earthquake, the temple curtain was torn in two, the tombs were opened, and many appeared to show that Jesus defeated death. The curtain was the entrance to the Holy of Holies, the holiest room of the temple, the place of God's presence. It was a barrier between God and man. Now, Jesus' death opened the way for man to freely approach God and enter His presence. His body symbolized the curtain. The soldiers were scared and declared that Jesus was the Son of God. Has God ever shaken your world to make the gospel known?

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for overcoming the powers of sin and death and making a way for me to enter Your holy presence. I believe You are the Son of God—the only way of salvation. Amen.



EASTER SUNDAY

HE HAS RISEN!

BIBLE READING

**MATTHEW 27:57-66; 28:1-15; MARK 16:1-11; LUKE 24:1-12;
JOHN 20:1-18**

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." Some of the guards reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. They gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "you are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.'"

REFLECTION

Amazing turnaround! On the third day Jesus arose from the grave. He overcame the plot and threats and accomplished the Father's will. Now, the gospel story is secure and ready to be released through us. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. Because He lives forever, we will live forever if we believe He is the Son of God. No matter what the opposition and sacrifices we go through, Jesus understands and walks the journey to the cross with us. How does knowing you have eternal life impact your life?

PRAYER

O Holy God, thank You for providing a way for me to be saved. Thank you, Jesus, for all You endured for my sin. Remind me every day of what I have received because of You, and the journey. Amen.

