

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS WITH JESUS

April 1st / 2nd, 2023
Pastor Steve

The Crucifixion

²⁶ As they led Jesus away, a man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be coming in from the countryside. The soldiers seized him and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus... ³² Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. ³³ When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice. ³⁵ The crowd watched and the leaders scoffed. "He saved others," they said, "let him save himself if he is really God's Messiah, the Chosen One." ³⁶ The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink of sour wine. ³⁷ They called out to him, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ A sign was fastened to the cross above him with these words: "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" ⁴⁰ But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? ⁴¹ We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." ⁴⁴ By this time it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. ⁴⁵ The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last. ⁴⁷ When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, he worshiped God and said, "Surely this man was innocent." ⁴⁸ And when all the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw what had happened, they went home in deep sorrow. ⁴⁹ But Jesus' friends, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching. Luke 23:26, 32-49

Journey With Jesus Word of the Day: _____.

Contemplation is pausing intentionally throughout my day to focus my Spirit on what Jesus did for me on the cross.

To P.A.U.S.E. and Contemplate the Cross of Jesus, I:

I) _____ little reminders to turn my focus to the cross.

I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. Psalm 77:11 (NIV)

II) _____ God to forgive my sins.

“Come now, let’s settle this,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. Isaiah 1:18

III) _____ my Easter fast to turn my focus to the cross.

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God’s throne. Hebrews 12:2

IV) _____ aside time this week to read the account of Jesus on the cross.

A) Luke 22-24; Matthew 26-28; Mark 15-16; John 17-20.

B) But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. John 20:31

V) _____ the results of focusing my Spirit on the cross.

The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

NEXT STEPS:

- I will memorize 1 Corinthians 1:18.
- I will read Luke 22-24; Matthew 26-28; Mark 15-16; and/or John 17-20 this week.
- I will pray for & invite the following people to Easter Services:

- Sign me up to attend the Chosen People Seder Celebration on April 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- Sign me up for the New Members Class – April 23rd and 30th