

“Journey to the Cross”

THE GOSPEL OF MARK 15:21-39

The Cross of Jesus

¹ A certain from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁸ [\[a\]](#) ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!” ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

The Death of Jesus

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). ³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. ³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

“Journey to the Cross”

- Mark 15:21 – *They compelled one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his **cross**.*
- Galatians 6:14 – *But God forbid that I should glory, save in **the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ**, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*
- 1 Corinthians 2:2 – *For I determined not to know anything among you, **except Jesus Christ, and him crucified**.*

Two Gates

- The Gate Beautiful – Triumphal Entry – closed in 1187 and again in 1541 by Muslim Suleiman / Muslims are familiar with Ezekiel 44:1–3
Then the man brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, the one facing east, and it was shut. The LORD said to me, “This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered through it. The prince himself is the only one who may sit inside the gateway to eat in the presence of the LORD. He is to enter by way of the portico of the gateway and go out the same way.”
- The Judgment Gate to Calvary Golgotha – Via Dolorosa

Four Rejections

- The people cried – “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”
- Judas betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver.
- Peter denied him with curses.
- All the disciples ran away and hid.

Three Crosses

- The cross of shame. Roman crosses, 6,000 and 2,000 enemies.
- Crucified between two thieves. The shame of being judged a criminal.
- Simon the Cyrenian was compelled to carry his cross. – Mark says he was the father of Alexander and Rufus. They became early church missionaries. Mentioned in Romans 16:13 Salute Rufus, chosen of the Lord and his mother and mine.
 - Cyrene was a Greek city in the Province of Cyrenaica, in eastern Libya, in northern Africa.
 - Burial cave found in 1941 belonging to Cyrenian Jews and dating from 70 AD. Ossuary inscribed twice in Greek, “Alexander, son of Simon.”
 - Song: Watch the Lamb – (See notes)

One End & Beginning

- The Trumpet, the Veil torn, the earth shook, the sun dark, dead rise.
- His Victory is over **Sin, Satan, Death, and Hell. We are forever free.**
- We, therefore, are compelled to bear His cross.

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?

- Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone,
And there's a cross for me.
- How happy are the saints above,
Who once went sorr'wing here!
But now they taste unmingled love,
And joy without a tear.
- The consecrated cross I'll bear
Till death shall set me free;
And then go home my crown to wear,
For there's a crown for me.
- Upon the crystal pavement down
At Jesus' pierced feet,
Joyful I'll cast my golden crown
And His dear Name repeat.
- O precious cross! O glorious crown!
O resurrection day!
When Christ the Lord from heav'n comes down
And bears my soul away.

The Cross

Cross Made of No Effect

1 Corinthians 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

The Preaching of the Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. preaching of the cross

The Offense of the Cross

Galatians 5:11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? hen is the offense of the cross ceased.

Glory in the Cross

Galatians 6:14 But God forbid that I should glory, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Peace through the Blood of the Cross

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.

Nailing it to the Cross

Colossians 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailling it to his cross;

Reconcile to God by the Cross

Ephesians 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

Bear Your Cross

Luke 14:27 And whoever does not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

1 Corinthians 1:17-18 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Watch the Lamb

Walking On the Road
To Jerusalem,
The time had come to sacrifice,

Walking On the Road
To Jerusalem,
The time had come to sacrifice,
Again.
My two small sons,
They walked beside me down the road,
The reason that they came,
Was to watch the lamb.
"Daddy daddy,
What will we see there?
There's so much that we don't understand,"
So I told them of Moses,
And Father Abraham,
And then I said dear children,
"Watch the lamb.
There will be so many,
In Jerusalem today,
We must be sure the lamb
Doesn't run away,"
And I told them of Moses,
And Father Abraham,
And I said "Dear children,
Watch the lamb."
When we reached the city,
I knew something must be wrong,
There were no joyful worshippers
No joyful worship songs.
I stood there,
With my children,
In the midst of angry men,
Then I heard the crowd cry out,
"Crucify Him!"
We tried to leave the city,
But we could not get away.
Forced to play in this drama,
A part I did not wish to play,
Why upon this day were men condemned to die?
Why were we all standing here,
When soon they would pass by?
I looked and said,
"Even now they come,"
The first one pleaded for mercy,
The people gave him none.
The second one was violent,
He was arrogant and loud,
I can still hear his angry voice,
Screaming at the crowd.

Then someone said,
"There's Jesus,"
I scarce believed my eyes,
A man so badly beaten,
He barely looked alive.
Blood poured from His body,
From the thorns on His brow,
Running down the cross,
And falling to the ground.
I watched as He struggled,
I watched Him as He fell,
The cross came down upon His back,
And the crowd began to yell.
In that moment I felt such agony,
In that moment I felt such loss,
Till the roman soldier grabbed my arm and
screamed,
"YOU! Carry his cross!"
At first I tried to resist him,
But his hand reached for his sword,
So I knelt and I took
The cross from the Lord.
I put it on my shoulders
And started down the street
The blood that He'd been shedding,
Was running down my cheek.
They led us to Golgatha
They drove nails,
Deep in His feet and hands.
And on the cross,
I heard him pray,
"Father, forgive them..."
Never have I seen such love
In any other eyes
"Into thy hands I commit my spirit,"
He prayed,
And then He died.
I stood for what seemed like years,
I lost all sense of time,
Until I felt two tiny hands
Holding tight to mine.
My children stood there weeping,
And I heard the oldest say
"Father please forgive us,
The lamb,
Ran away.