






## Good Friday Devotional

We invite you to spend some time this Good Friday reflecting on the Cross of Christ. Before you begin...

- We suggest finding a quiet spot where you can be contemplative.
-  You might grab a journal or a sheet of paper to capture your thoughts and prayers.
-  The scriptures to read are included in their entirety in this Devotional but you might prefer to look them up in your own Bible.
- If God reveals anything new to you or reveals some action you are to take please share it with a trusted Christ-following friend.
- It is possible God could bring to your mind a friend or family member who does not yet know Jesus. Consider sharing this devotional with them or meeting with them to talk about faith. [GO HERE](#) for a video about how to share the gospel.
- Before you begin, quiet your heart. Capture any running thoughts and your to-do's and put them onto your phone or some paper. Ask God to meet you here and show you what he wants you to know and experience today.
-  We have created an Instrumental Playlist you might chose to engage as you work through this devotional. Find it [HERE](#)

# PART 1

## A SUFFERING SERVANT

The scriptures tell us that Jesus was a *man of sorrows, acquainted with grief*. It is possible if you were asked to compose a list of words to describe Jesus you might leave those words out, or they might not come to you readily. *Man of sorrows* isn't always what we think of when we ponder Jesus Christ. Yet, we see this side of our Savior in glimpses throughout the gospels, and certainly the *Suffering Servant* is most obviously seen in the events leading to the cross.

Let's spend some time "in" Good Friday today. It can be easy to want to fast forward to an empty tomb and a risen Jesus. What might we learn about our Savior and his heart toward humanity, *toward us*, if we chose to sit in His suffering with Him for a bit?

▷ Let's start with a prophecy. This following passage, found in the book of Isaiah, was spoken about Jesus around 700 years before he was born. The words of Isaiah give us such meaningful insight into the sacrifice and pain (both emotional and physical) of Jesus as he took on the Cross.

It is a key Old Testament passage pointing toward the saving work of Jesus Christ. The writers of the New Testament point to this passage and how Jesus fulfilled this very prophecy. (Including but not limited to [Matthew 8:17](#); [Luke 23:8-9](#); [John 12:38](#); [Romans 10:16](#); [1 Peter 2:25](#))



### Read Isaiah 53

Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

<sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,

stricken by him, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.

<sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

<sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,  
and though the LORD make his life an offering for sin,  
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,  
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

<sup>11</sup> After he has suffered,  
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge<sup>a</sup> my righteous servant will justify many,  
and he will bear their iniquities.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,  
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,  
because he poured out his life unto death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors.

For he bore the sin of many,  
and made intercession for the transgressors.



Read the chapter once again slowly, taking in the words and letting yourself stop and ponder.



JOURNAL...What surprises you? What moves you? What stirs in you as you consider Jesus as a man of sorrows and suffering? What phrases or words stand

out to you the most?

## A ONCE AND FOR ALL SACRIFICE

Since the events in Genesis 3 where man rebelled against God and sin was set into motion there was a debt to be paid and a separation between God and His people. The only answer to this debt and separation was God sending his Son. Jesus was to pay the debt and to become the bridge between a Holy God and His sinful people. This is why “it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer.” **God’s plan for the ultimate atonement of our sins was ALWAYS Jesus.**

Before Christ, an ongoing sacrificial system of animal sacrifice was required to atone for man’s sin. Jesus became the *final, once-for-all sacrifice. It is by his wounds we are healed and through his death we are forgiven.* No sacrifice of any kind made by man would ever be enough. Nothing we could ever do or say would ever be enough. We are saved by Jesus alone... *For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*



**READ the following verses about the once for all substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus...**

### *HEBREWS 10:1-18*

And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool. For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary

### *1 John 2:2*

He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

### *Romans 6:10*

“For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

*1 Peter 2:24*

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

*Matthew 20:28*

Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

*1 John 4:10*

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



After you have read the verses let them soak in and take a few minutes to talk with and listen to God. You might consider journaling as you pray.

-Speak out and write out the truth about who Jesus is and what he has done for you based on the scriptures above.

-Speak and write words of praise and honor and worship unto Him.

-Confess where you fall short and where you don't take Him at his word.

-Be truthful about where you aren't living in the fullness of what He has done for you. Be truthful about the ways you may still live as though you are guilty and mired by sin.

-Sit in the quiet and listen to what he might have to say to you or what he might show you as you focus on Him.

## PART 2

### THE ROAD TO THE CROSS

*Now let's recount some of Jesus's final moments in his last days and up to the crucifixion.*



**Read Matthew 26:47-55**

#### **The Arrest**

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."<sup>a</sup>

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> "Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

<sup>55</sup> In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

After Jesus was arrested he was questioned by the High Priest and then taken to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate, having found no basis for charge against Jesus, wanted the Jewish leaders to judge Jesus by their own law. The Jewish leaders pushed back on this because under their law they had no right execute anyone. (John 18:28-31)



Consider 2 things and journal your answers:

1. Jesus was betrayed by someone he had loved and poured into daily. What must it have been like for Jesus to be betrayed by one of his own? Even more to consider is that the scriptures tell us that Jesus fully knew Judas would betray him.

2. What must it have been like for Jesus to see his disciples desert him and flee upon his arrest?



3. It can be easy to think the disciples as weak or faithless but what is actually true is that we have all betrayed Jesus and we have all fled from him in times of duress. And yet...he invites us to his table. He washes our feet. He chooses us every time. (see [John 13:1-17](#))

3. What else did you notice in Matthew 26 or in the passage from John you just read?



### **Read Matthew 27:11-26**

<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

<sup>12</sup> When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” <sup>14</sup> But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

<sup>15</sup> Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus<sup>□</sup> Barabbas. <sup>17</sup> So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

<sup>19</sup> While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”

<sup>20</sup> But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

<sup>21</sup> “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor.

“Barabbas,” they answered.

<sup>22</sup> “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked.

They all answered, “Crucify him!”

<sup>23</sup> “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

<sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!”

<sup>25</sup> All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!”

<sup>26</sup> Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.





Think on this:

Luke 23 tells us that Barabbas was imprisoned for both insurrection in the city and murder. He was an actual criminal and was righteously imprisoned. However, the Jewish people called for his release and freedom instead of calling for the release of a sinless Jesus. Matthew 27 is a picture of Christ's substitutionary death for each one of us. We too "are Barabbas," set free and released from bondage when we deserved punishment.



1. What does identifying with Barabbas stir up in you?
2. Are you tempted to think, "Well I never murdered anyone!"?  
"Sin comparison" can be an easy place to go. Yet, we know *"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."* Romans 3 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," <sup>23</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— <sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.



3. Barabbas sinned. You have sinned. ALL have sinned. *God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood...*

## **PART 3**

### **CRUCIFIXION AND FINAL WORDS**



**Read John 19:16-40**

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

<sup>24</sup> “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.”

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

“They divided my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment.”<sup>[a]</sup>  
So this is what the soldiers did.

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman,<sup>[b]</sup> here is your son,” <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**All 4 gospels have accounts of the crucifixion. Let's jump over to the Gospel according to Luke to read part of his account:**



**READ Luke 23:32-43**

<sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”



Consider this:

In his most distraught moment, a moment wrought with emotional, physical, and spiritual pain at a level we cannot fathom, JESUS FORGAVE. He forgave those who had literally put him on the Cross and he offered forgiveness and citizenship in His Kingdom to a repentant criminal. *It seems there was nothing on earth that would dissuade him from his purpose to seek and save the lost.*



1. What does that kind of forgiveness mean to you? Ponder the heart of our Savior and the depth of forgiveness, grace and mercy there.
2. It is said: Forgiven people forgive people. As one who has been forgiven by Jesus Christ, do you need to extend forgiveness to another person?
3. Maybe the person you need to forgive is yourself? Sometimes we will freely forgive everyone BUT the person in the mirror. Can you believe that Christ’s death

on the Cross was for you and that your sins are truly forgiven, not matter what they are?



4. Journal about these questions and consider if there are next steps for you to take.

5. \*\*\* If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and received His forgiveness we invite you to go to the end of this devotional and find the section called ***Asking Jesus to be Lord of Your Life.***



## READ John 16:28-42

### The Death of Jesus

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup> The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup> The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” <sup>37</sup> and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

### The Burial of Jesus

<sup>38</sup> Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup> He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. <sup>40</sup> Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. <sup>41</sup> At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup> Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.



#### Consider This:

It is human nature to get to John 19:42 or Matthew 27:66 or Mark 15:47 and Luke 23:56 and mentally jump ahead to what we know is next. We know Sunday is coming and our faith is anchored not only on the *Suffering Savior* who broke the curse of sin but ALSO on the *Risen Savior* who conquered death and now sits at the right hand of God. **Yet on Good Friday let’s not skip to what we know is coming.** Let’s sit in the gravity of what Jesus willingly went through to pay our debt, to secure our freedom, to make it possible for us to live in the Kingdom of Light

forever. Let's let the suffering, pain and death Jesus endured with US on his mind and heart, resonate deeply.

## IT IS FINISHED

In John 16:30 Jesus said, *"It is finished."* With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

In many passages from today you read things like, "These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled." Jesus was ever mindful of the prophecy His very life was fulfilling. Did you know there are over 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament? When Jesus spoke IT IS FINISHED all those prophecies, minus the ones that would come to pass in 3 days, had been fulfilled. **IT IS FINISHED were words of holy completion.**



*He took the punishment he was not due.  
He carried the shame that was never his own.  
He died a grueling death that should have been mine.  
To pay a debt he did not owe.*

J E S U S

*The sinless, perfect, once-for-all sacrifice.  
He came and IT IS FINISHED.  
And we are forever changed.  
Amen.*



As a way to further reflect spend time listening to [THIS SONG](#). It can also be found [HERE](#) if you do not have Spotify.



**Here are some ideas of what you might do next before moving on with your day:**

1. As someone who has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb enter into a time of partaking in communion. Get crackers or bread and some kind of juice and walk through the Lord's Supper just as Jesus and his disciples did shortly before Jesus was arrested.

**Matthew 26:26-29**

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the<sup>a</sup> covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

2. Speak words of thanksgiving to Jesus for all he has done for you. Then ask him what it looks like for you to live a life of gratitude for the forgiveness of your past, present and future sins. If you have a clear sense of what this might look like be sure to share it with a fellow Christ follower, especially if there is some kind of change God might be asking you to take. Access [this song](#) as a great way to lean into gratitude. Find it [HERE](#) if you don't have Spotify.

3. Go to Live Oak's Spotify and access our [Good Friday playlist](#). Sit with it with a contemplative heart.

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### ***Asking Jesus to be Lord of Your Life***

It is possible you made your way to this devotional and are not yet a follower of Jesus Christ. We are SO glad you are here, by the way. Please head to the next page to learn what it means to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior of your life.

*Here is an overview of the gospel, the Good News, by which we can be saved!*

### **THE HUMAN PROBLEM.**

Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

Romans 3:10 There is no one righteous, not even one.

*ALL of us are born in a sin condition and it separates us from God because He is holy and perfect. Sin is a problem shared by ALL mankind, that was set into motion when Adam and Eve rebelled against God. It was inherited by ALL those who would come after.*

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

For the wages of sin is death ...The consequence of our sin nature is death and eternal separation from God. But the second half of the verse reveals the ultimate answer to this problem...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **HUMANITY’S HOPE IS JESUS.**

Romans 5:8 “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

This is how God shows you that He loves you. He sent His Son to die for you and to pay the debt that sin incurs. He wants to redeem you and He does this not because you deserve it. In fact, there is nothing you (or any other person) could ever do to deserve it. It is by grace and through mercy that He sent Jesus to die for you. This was done purely out of His deep love for you and out of His initiative.

### **OUR RESPONSE.**

Romans 10:9-10 “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and



are saved.

**Romans 10:13** “For, ‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’”

We are saved and brought into the Kingdom of God by believing Jesus is our Lord and Savior, and by believing He conquered death and rose from the grave (as the scriptures and eyewitness accounts tell us). We then profess these beliefs with our mouths. This is how we are saved and become Followers of Jesus Christ!

If you *believe* what these scriptures say and you want to give your life to Jesus you can *profess* a simple prayer like this to the Lord right now:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior from here forward.”

**Romans 8:1** “There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Through the cross of Christ all sin (past, present and future) is forgiven and those who believe and proclaim are free from condemnation and can live in right standing with their holy God.



This is the most important decision you will ever make and we would LOVE to know you made it! We would also LOVE to walk with you in it! We were created to pursue a relationship with Jesus *alongside* others who love Him too. We want to help you walk in your new life with Jesus! You can reach out [HERE](#) and we will be in touch soon.



Maybe you’ve come to this point and are not ready to make a decision to follow Christ? We would still love to walk alongside you as you journey and answer any questions you might have. Connect with us [HERE](#).