

Devotion for Holy Week

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

“He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him since he delights in him.”

Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother’s breast.

From birth I have been cast upon you, from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

Roaring lions tearing their prey, open their mouths wide against me.

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

**My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you have laid me in the dust of death.**

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.

They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

But you, O Lord, be not far off; O my strength, come quickly to help me.

Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob honor Him!

Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

For He has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one;

He has not hidden His face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities

How was Jesus the Lord’s servant?

How did Jesus serve us in His life?

What service does Jesus render to us in our lives?

John 19:1-42

Jesus is Crucified, dies and is buried

Why did the Roman soldiers dress Jesus in purple and hail him as king?

What commandment did Jesus fulfil regarding His mother?

Why did Jesus say “It is finished” before He died?

“It is Finished”

The death of Jesus is the most profound moment in history since the first humans fell into sin. His death foretold by the prophets before him and by himself in the days before it occurred, was accompanied by strange happenings and synchronous events. The sky was darkened as He called out to His Father to receive His spirit. When He breathed His last, the earth was shaken by a violent earthquake. Many of the righteous dead were raised and were seen in Jerusalem. Even the pagan centurion who stood beneath Jesus’ cross was affected; he exclaimed, “*This man really was the Son of God.*” In the temple the curtain that separated the Most Holy Place from the Holy Place was torn in two, from top to bottom. These things testified to a happening of profound meaning and purpose.

When Jesus cried out, *“It is finished,”* He wasn’t simply referring to his life, stating He was about to die. He was referring to the work He had been born to accomplish, the reconciliation of the creation to the Creator and the renewal of heaven and earth as the home of God’s righteousness. St. Paul wrote to the Colossians about the reconciliation Jesus accomplished through his death on the cross. He said, *“God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, things in heaven, things on the earth and things under the earth—making peace through the blood of His cross.”* Jesus fulfilled His purpose and reconciled the creation to the Creator. The meaning of Jesus’ death is that through faith in Him, we personally are reconciled to our Creator and have access to Him through Jesus.

Jesus’ work of reconciliation will be fulfilled when He returns, gives us a share in His resurrection and God makes all things new. The earth will again shake and bring forth the dead, made righteous in Christ. The heavens will roll up like a scroll and all things will be made new. Jesus’ death truly is the most significant event in human history and in the lives of those who believe. His death took away our sin. His resurrection assures us that God accepted His sacrifice and accepts all who receive Him as Saviour.

“Were You There” (CCLI#453681)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when he rose up from the dead? Were you there when he rose up from the dead? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

Prayer

Lord Jesus as we reflect upon your holy, innocent, bitter, suffering and death for our salvation, bless us with a deeper appreciation for your love and the price you paid for our forgiveness. Bless us with your Holy Spirit that we may treasure you more dearly in our hearts and express our love for you more faithfully in our lives. In your Name we pray. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction Romans 5:10

“For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

Who was the man who helped Jesus carry the cross?

Name the servant whose ear Peter cut off when Jesus was arrested?

Who had a bad dream before Jesus was condemned?

Answers to last week’s Quiz

Mark. (Acts 12:25)

Silas. (Acts 15:39-40)

Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them. Paul objected because Mark had left in the midst of their previous missionary journey. (Acts 15:36-38)