


INTRO



HOLY WEEK IS THE 7-DAY PERIOD LEADING TO EASTER SUNDAY. THIS WAS AN INSANE WEEK FOR JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES FULL OF BETRAYAL, DENIAL, ACCUSATION, LOST HOPE AND THE EVENTUAL DEATH OF JESUS. EACH DAY OF THIS DEVOTIONAL WILL TACKLE AN ASPECT OF THOSE LAST FEW MOMENTS BEFORE AND DURING THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS. THIS 7-DAY JOURNEY IS LEADING US TO THE WONDER OF THE RESURRECTION. AS YOU READ YOU WILL FIND THERE ARE SECTIONS TO THE DAY YOU ARE READING: SCRIPTURE, DEVOTION, REFLECTION, IMAGE AND PRAYER. IT IS SET UP THIS WAS TO REFLECT TO PRACTICES OF THE ANCIENT CHURCH: DAILY OFFICE AND STATION OF THE CROSS. DAILY OFFICE IS SIMPLY A STYLE OR WAY OF BEING WITH GOD THAT ALLOWS FOR CONTEMPLATION, STILLNESS AND SILENCE. STATIONS OF THE CROSS IS A PRACTICE OF RECREATING THE HOLY PLACES FOR THOSE THAT WERE NOT ABLE TO TAKE A PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM. THESE "HOLY PLACE" REPLICAS WERE PLACES THAT PEOPLE COULD PRAY AND READY THEIR HEARTS FOR EASTER, THE DAY THAT CHANGES THE WORLD.



SCRIPTURE: EACH DAY WILL INCLUDE A SCRIPTURE THAT GETS US INTO THE FRAME WORK OF JESUS' JOURNEY TO THE CROSS. READ AND MAKE NOTE OF WHAT YOU SEE IN THE TEXT.

DEVOTION: THE DEVOTION WILL BE SOME INSIGHT ON WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE TEXT AND WHY IT MATTERS.

REFLECTION: IN THE REFLECTION SECTION YOU CAN SEE WHAT THE TAKE-AWAY IS FOR WHAT WE ARE READING THAT DAY AND WILL INCLUDE A QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF.

IMAGE: THE IMAGE IS SIMPLY A VISUAL REPRESENTATION TO EVOKE YOUR HEART AND MIND AS YOU ARE STILL, SILENT BEFORE GOD. (WE SUGGEST 2 MINUTES OF SILENCE)

PRAYER: CLOSE EACH DAY BY PRAYING THE PROVIDED PRAYER AND ADD TO IT AS MUCH AS YOU DESIRE.



DAY 1: PROMISE

MATTHEW 26:27-28

AND HE TOOK A CUP, AND WHEN HE HAD GIVEN THANKS HE GAVE IT TO THEM, SAYING, "DRINK OF IT, ALL OF YOU, FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE COVENANT, WHICH IS POURED OUT FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS."

THE NIGHT WE CALL THE LAST SUPPER, WHERE JESUS SPOKE IN MATTHEW 26, WAS ACTUALLY THE PASSOVER MEAL THAT THE JEWS HAD PARTICIPATED IN FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. THE PASSOVER WAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER WHAT GOD DID TO LIBERATE HIS PEOPLE OUT OF SLAVERY AND GOD'S CONTINUED FAITHFULNESS TO THE PROMISE HE HAD GIVEN HIS PEOPLE. JESUS TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO INSTALL A NEW COVENANT OR PROMISE. THE PROMISE IS THAT FORGIVENESS WOULD NO LONGER COME THROUGH A SACRIFICE YOU MADE ON YOUR BEHALF BUT THAT GOD WOULD MAKE A SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF ON YOUR BEHALF. THE PASSOVER LAMB WOULD BE REPLACED BY JESUS AS THE PERFECT AND SPOTLESS LAMB OF GOD. IN MANY WAYS THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY ODD FOR JESUS TO SAY. JUST A FEW DAYS FROM THIS MOMENT THEY WOULD MORE FULLY REALIZE WHAT JESUS MEANT WHEN HE SAID THESE THINGS.

THIS CUP WAS MORE THAN JUST WINE FOR HIS DISCIPLES TO DRINK AND CELEBRATE WITH. THIS CUP WAS BEING PASSED AS A PROPHETIC SIGN OF THE SUFFERING THAT JESUS WAS ABOUT TO UNDERTAKE. THE PROMISE IS COSTLY. BUT YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PAY IT. GOD IS WILLING TO PAY IT FOR YOU. AS WE WILL SEE IN THE NEXT DAY'S DEVOTION, JESUS EVEN PRAYS ABOUT THIS CUP OF SUFFERING. JESUS KNOWS THE COST AND HE WILLINGLY FORGES AHEAD INTO PATH THAT WILL LEAD TO HIS DEATH. A DEATH THAT WILL ENSURE THE PROMISE OF GOD TO HIS PEOPLE.

"THE PROMISE IS COSTLY."

REFLECT

THE IMAGE BELOW IS THAT OF THE CUP THAT JESUS PASSED AROUND TO HIS DISCIPLES ON THE NIGHT THAT HE WOULD BE BETRAYED AND ARRESTED. IT IS ONE THING TO READ ABOUT HOW THE CUP WAS PASSED TO THE DISCIPLES BUT THE REALITY IS THAT JESUS EXTENDS THE CUP TO YOU AS WELL. GOD HAS OFFERED YOU A PROMISE TO FORGIVE YOU AND LOVE YOU AND BRING YOU INTO NEW LIFE. WILL YOU TAKE THE CUP?



TAKE
A FEW
MOMENTS.



PAUSE,
BE STILL,
BE QUIET.

PRAYER

JESUS, THANK YOU FOR THIS PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS AND NEW LIFE! HELP ME TO SEE THAT IS IN FACT FOR ME AND THAT YOU ARE GIVING ME THIS PROMISE AS A GIFT AND NOT AS A WAGE. YOUR LOVE CAN SEEM OUT OR REACH AND NOT FOR ME BUT I TRUST YOU AND I TAKE THIS CUP FOR MY LIFE. I RECIEVE EVERY GOOD THING YOU HAVE ATTACHED TO THIS PROMISE AND I WORSHIP YOU FOR YOUR GOODNESS TOWARDS ME.

/// AMEN



DAY 2: AGONY

LUKE 22:44

AND BEING IN AGONY HE PRAYED MORE EARNESTLY; AND HIS SWEAT BECAME LIKE GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD FALLING DOWN TO THE GROUND.

WHEN JESUS HAD FINISHED CELEBRATING PASSOVER WITH HIS DISCIPLES HE TOOK THEM TO THE MOUNT OF OLIVES. THIS WAS A PLACE FREQUENTED BY JESUS AND SO IT WAS THE PERFECT PLACE TO READY HIMSELF FOR THE HOURS AHEAD. THESE MOMENTS OF PRAYER HAVE THE HINT OF MANY OF THE PSALMS. THE PSALTER WOULD CRY OUT IN ANGUISH AND DISTRESS. THESE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS WERE DEEPLY TROUBLED AND YET FOUND A CONFIDENCE IN COMING BEFORE GOD FOR THE STRENGTH THEY NEEDED TO ENDURE THEIR HARDSHIPS. THE TEXT IN LUKE SHOWS MULTIPLE MOMENTS OF PRAYER, EACH ONE WITH AN INCREASE IN AGONY. AS MENTIONED IN DAY ONE, JESUS HAD A CUP OF PROMISE THAT HE SHARED WITH HIS DISCIPLES. THIS CUP OF PROMISE IS DOUBLED-SIDED. ONE PART PROMISE, THE OTHER PART SUFFERING. JESUS EVEN ASKS THAT THIS CUP, IF POSSIBLE, COULD PASS FROM HIM (LUKE 22:42). WAS JESUS JUST TROUBLED OVER THE IDEA OF SUFFERING? MAYBE IN PART, BUT MORE SPECIFICALLY HOW THIS CUP OF SUFFERING WOULD BE COMING. IN ORDER FOR THE PROMISE TO COME GOD'S WRATH AND JUDGEMENT FOR SIN HAD TO BE SATISFIED. AND SINCE NO MAN COULD HANDLE THE BURDEN OF GOD'S WRATH, GOD BECAME A MAN (JESUS) AND FACED THAT WRATH FOR US.

JESUS IS NOT ONLY FACING A PHYSICAL PAIN, BUT WILL PUT ON AND BECOME SIN AND TAKE THE FULL WRATH OF GOD AT THE CROSS. THE CRUCIFIXION IS A BRUTAL AND BARBARIC WAY TO DIE BUT MORE THAN THAT IS TO FACE THE WRATH OF GOD. JESUS LEAVES THE MOUNT OF OLIVES WILLING TO DO JUST THAT.

"GOD BECAME A MAN AND FACED THAT WRATH FOR US."

REFLECT

THE IMAGE BELOW IS A SWEAT DROP. IN THE SOUTH IT IS QUITE EASY TO WORK UP A SWEAT BECASUE OF THE CONSTANT HEAT. BUT JESUS SWEAT IS NOT REPRESENTATION OF A PHYSICAL LABOR BUT RATHER A SPIRITUAL AND EMOTIONAL ONE. JESUS' AGONY OVER WHAT LAID AHEAD OF HIM AND YET THE WILLINGNESS TO PRESS ON. AS YOU LOOK AT THE IMAGE CONSIDER HOW YOU TRUST JESUS DEEPLY WITH YOUR PAIN AND GRIEF KNOWING HE HAS CARRIED IT TO THE CROSS.

TAKE
A FEW
MOMENTS.



PAUSE,
BE STILL,
BE QUIET.

PRAYER

JESUS, YOU HAVE CARRIED MY AGONY AND SUFFERED IN MY PLACE. I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO FACE THE WRATH OF GOD FOR ME. YOU HAVE RELIEVED MY FEAR AND SHAME. WHEN I FIND MYSELF DEEPLY TROUBLED I WANT TO COME TO YOU KNOWING THAT YOU CAN EMPATHIZE WITH ME. THAT YOU HAVE PROVIDED MY A PLACE OF CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY, NOT UNCERTAINTY.

/// AMEN

DAY 3: BETRAYAL

MATTHEW 26:14-16

THEN ONE OF THE TWELVE—THE ONE CALLED JUDAS ISCARIOT—WENT TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND ASKED, “WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE ME IF I DELIVER HIM OVER TO YOU?” SO THEY COUNTED OUT FOR HIM THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER. FROM THEN ON JUDAS WATCHED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO HAND HIM OVER.

AFTER AROUND 3 YEARS OF TRAVELING TOGETHER, ONE OF JESUS' FRIENDS AND DISCIPLES (JUDAS) DECIDED TO BETRAY JESUS FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER. THIS IS SUCH A PIVOTAL PART IN THE MOMENTS LEADING UP TO JESUS' CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH THAT THE APOSTLE PAUL EVEN FRAMES A PART OF HIS LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS AS, “ON THE NIGHT HE (JESUS) WAS BETRAYED...” (1 COR. 11:23). BETRAYAL. IT'S A NASTY PART OF THE HUMAN CONDITION. JUDAS WAS A FRIEND OF THREE YEARS, SHARING MEALS, MINISTRY, LAUGHS, AND DESIRES FOR THE KINGDOM TO COME. THERE IS ALL KINDS OF SPECULATION AS TO WHY JUDAS BETRAYED JESUS BUT THE FALLOUT IS ALL THE SAME. JESUS WAS HANDED OVER TO THE LEADERS OF THE SANHEDRIN AND EVENTUALLY SENTENCED TO BE CRUCIFIED. THIS BETRAYAL IS THE HINGE POINT TO ALL OF THESE EVENTS. BUT THE BETRAYAL WAS A SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY, BELOW THE SURFACE AND ORCHESTRATED IN THE DARK. JUDAS AGREES SO BETRAY JESUS IN SECRET, HE LEAVES DURING THE LAST SUPPER TO GATHER THOSE NEEDED TO ARREST JESUS AND THEN HE EVEN KISSES JESUS AS A GREETING AS TO IDENTIFY JESUS, BECAUSE IT WAS SO DARK AND THOSE WHO WERE THERE WOULD KNOW WHO TO ARREST. IT WAS CALCULATED AND PERFORMED BUT ALL IN THE SHADOWS. JUDAS IS NEVER MENTIONED AS CONFRONTING JESUS IN PUBLIC OR EVEN IN CONVERSATION WHILE THEY WERE TOGETHER. OUR BIGGEST BETRAYALS HAPPEN IN THE DARK AND THEY POSE DEEP THREATS TO OUR FAITH. IT'S NEVER AN IN THE MOMENT ACTIVITY BUT A SLOWLY WORKED AND GROWN ISSUE.

BETRAYAL IS A SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY.

REFLECT

THE IMAGE BELOW IS A COIN WITH 30 MARKS TO SYMBOLIZE THE 30 PIECES OF SILVER THAT JUDAS TOOK TO BETRAY JESUS. MANY OF US COULD NOT EVEN IMAGINE THAT WE WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SUCH A THING BUT MAYBE IT'S NOT TOO FAR OFF. OUR BETRAYAL OF OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH JESUS MAY HAPPEN IN A MORE SUBTLE WAY. WHERE MAY YOU BE BETRAYING THE FRIENDSHIP OF GOD? REMEMBER THAT JUDAS BETRAYED JESUS WITH A KISS NOT KNIFE IN THE BACK.

TAKE
A FEW
MOMENTS.



PAUSE,
BE STILL,
BE QUIET.

PRAYER

THANK YOU LORD FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP. I KNOW I TAKE IT FOR GRANTED AND I AM SURE THAT IN SOME WAYS I HAVE BETRAYED THAT TRUST AND FREINDSHIP. HELP ME TO SEE WHERE THOSE PLACES ARE AND TO REIGNITE THAT PLACE OF LOVE AND TRUST WITH YOU.

/// AMEN

DAY 4: GUILT

MATTHEW 27:24

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!"

JESUS HAS BEEN ARRESTED, ACCUSED, CHARGED AND NOW SENTENCED TO DEATH BY A MOB OF PEOPLE, FUELED BY THE ANGER OF THE RELIGIOUS ELITE. THIS MOB HAS BROUGHT JESUS TO PILATE BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SENTENCE SOMEONE TO THE DEATH PENALTY. AFTER A GOOD BIT OF BACK AND FORTH WITH VARYING LEADERS AND EVEN JESUS BEING QUESTIONED BY PILATE, THERE IS A FINAL DECISION TO HAVE JESUS CRUCIFIED. PILATE, HESITANT TO DO THIS, MAKES ONE LAST DECLARATION. "I AM INNOCENT OF THIS MAN'S BLOOD!" HE WASHES HIS HANDS WITH WATER FROM A BOWL IN FRONT OF THE MOB TO SHOW THEM HE IS NOT GUILTY OF JESUS' DEATH (EVEN THOUGH HE IS TECHNICALLY THE ONE DOING THE SENTENCING). THE SOBERING REALITY IS THAT WHILE PILATE WASHES HIS HANDS AND SENTENCES JESUS TO DEATH HE IS ALSO STANDING BEFORE THE ONLY REAL SHOT AT FINDING HIS GUILT WASHED CLEAN. WE ARE JUST LIKE PILATE. WE ALL HAVE OUR BOWLS OF WATER FOR WASHING AWAY GUILT, SHAME OR CONDEMNATION. YET, CHRIST STANDS AS THE ULTIMATE CLEANSER. NOTHING CAN WAS US CLEAN LIKE JESUS' BLOOD. AS THE OLD HYMN, "NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD" SAYS, "WHAT CAN WASH ME PURE AS SNOW, NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS."

WE ALL HAVE OUR BOWLS FOR WASHING AWAY GUILT

REFLECT

THE IMAGE BELOW IS OF A BOWL USED FOR WASHING. WHAT BOWLS DO YOU WASH IN TO CLEANS YOUR HEART AND CONSCIENCE? IT'S A TOUGH QUESTION BECAUSE IT'S EASY TO FIND SOMETHING OR SOMEONE TO ABSOLVE YOU. JUST LIKE PILATE WE STAND BEFORE JESUS WITH OUR "BOWLS OF CLEANSING" TRYING TO CLEAR OURSELVES OF GUILT. BUT THE ONLY WAY TO CLEAR OUR HEARTS IS TO ACCEPT THAT GIFT OF SACRIFICE, THE BLOOD THAT WASHES AWAY GUILT AND SIN (1 JOHN 1:7).

TAKE
A FEW
MOMENTS.



PAUSE,
BE STILL,
BE QUIET.

PRAYER

JESUS, YOU ARE MY ONLY SHOT AT FINDING MY GUILT ABSOLVED. YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR LIFE THAT I MIGHT BE FREE OF SIN AND ALL IT'S BAGGAGE. GIVE ME A CLEAR CONSCIENCE AND HEART SO THAT I CAN LIVE MY LIFE FULL AND FREE FROM SHAME, GUILT, AND CONDEMNATION.

/// AMEN

DAY 5: PAIN

JOHN 19:1-2, 16-18

THEN PILATE TOOK JESUS AND HAD HIM FLOGGED. 2 THE SOLDIERS TWISTED TOGETHER A CROWN OF THORNS AND PUT IT ON HIS HEAD. FINALLY PILATE HANDED HIM OVER TO THEM TO BE CRUCIFIED. SO THE SOLDIERS TOOK CHARGE OF JESUS. 17 CARRYING HIS OWN CROSS, HE WENT OUT TO THE PLACE OF THE SKULL (WHICH IN ARAMAIC IS CALLED GOLGOTHA). 18 THERE THEY CRUCIFIED HIM, AND WITH HIM TWO OTHERS—ONE ON EACH SIDE AND JESUS IN THE MIDDLE.

PAIN. JESUS WENT THROUGH AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF PAIN. THE CRUCIFIX WAS A TORTURING DEVICE. JESUS WAS NOT THE FIRST OR LAST TO BE HUNG ON A ROMAN CROSS BUT HIS CRUCIFIXION IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT. HE ENCOUNTERED PAIN THAT MOST COULD NOT IMAGINE, AND NOT JUST PHYSICAL PAIN. HE WENT THROUGH EMOTIONAL PAIN THROUGHOUT THIS SERIES OF EVENTS. NOT TO MENTION THE MENTAL STRUGGLE OF WILLINGLY FACING ALL OF WHAT WAS TO COME THROUGH HIS TAKING ON SIN AND THE WRATH OF GOD. HE FACED ALL OF THIS BECAUSE HE WANTED TO. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN WE ARE SPEED READING THE ACCOUNT OF THE CRUCIFIXION. JESUS ONLY WENT WHERE HE WANTED TO GO. THINK ABOUT YOUR HUMAN NATURE TO AVOID PAIN AND SUFFERING. WE DON'T WANT TO ENCOUNTER PAIN ON ANY LEVEL. HEBREWS SPEAKS OF JESUS' JOURNEY THROUGH THE ROMAN CROSS AS, "FOR THE JOY SET BEFORE HIM, HE (JESUS) ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME (HEBREWS 12:2). JESUS KNEW WHAT WAS AWAITING PAIN THAT IS VENTURED INTO. THE TRUTH IS THAT PAIN COMES TO US ALL NO MATTER HOW HARD WE TRY AND ESCAPE IT. JESUS MODELS A STRIKING DIFFERENCE THAN MOST...FACE YOUR PAIN. HE KNOWS YOUR PAIN. EVERY BIT OF IT. JESUS NEVER CAME TO ENSURE YOU ESCAPE ALL PAIN BUT THAT, IN HIM, YOU COULD DECIDE TO VENTURE INTO IT AND COME OUT OF IT.

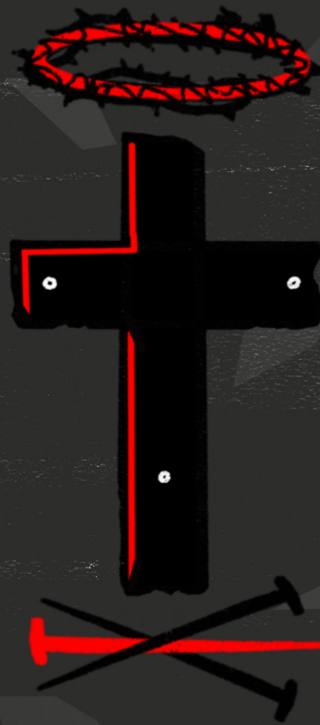
JESUS ONLY WENT WHERE HE WANTED TO GO

REFLECT

THE IMAGE BELOW IS REPRESENTATION TO THE TORTURE THAT JESUS ENDURED, A CROWN OF THORNS AND THE CRUCIFIX WITH NAILS. WHAT PAIN ARE YOU REFUSING TO FACE. IT'S DIFFICULT ISN'T IT? EVERYTHING IN US SCREAMS TO AVOID PAIN BUT THE CALL OF THOSE WHO FOLLOW JESUS IS NOT TO AVOID PAIN BUT TO FACE IT.



TAKE
A FEW
MOMENTS.



PAUSE,
BE STILL,
BE QUIET.

PRAYER

MY MIND IS SO OFTEN FOCUSED ON MY PAIN. I LOSE SIGHT OF ALL THAT IS GOING ON AROUND ME. MANY TIMES I AM CONSUMED WITH HOW MUCH I HURT. GIVE ME STRENGTH JESUS, SO I CAN VENTURE INTO PAIN AND COME OUT ON THE OTHER SIDE.

/// AMEN



DAY 6: HUMILIATION

MATTHEW 27:37

A SIGN WAS FASTENED ABOVE JESUS' HEAD, ANNOUNCING THE CHARGE AGAINST HIM. IT READ: "THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS."

JESUS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE PUT ON A CROSS. THIS IS MASSIVE. READ THIS ONE MORE TIME: JESUS ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE PUT ON A CROSS. THEN, AS IF THAT WAS NOT BAD ENOUGH, THEY FIXED A SIGN ABOVE HIS HEAD THAT READ, "THIS IS JESUS, KING OF THE JEWS." THIS WAS NOT A DECLARATION. THIS WAS AN INSULT. IT WAS EVEN WRITTEN IN THREE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES SO EVERYONE WHO WAS PASSING BY COULD KNOW WHAT IT SAID (JOHN 19:20). NOT TO MENTION THAT THOSE BEING CRUCIFIED WERE TYPICALLY STRIPPED NUDE. DURING THESE MOMENTS WHERE JESUS IS HANGING ON THE CROSS BARELY ABLE TO BREATHE, THOSE WHO HAD BROUGHT HIM TO PILATE TO BE KILLED ARE HURLING INSULTS AT HIM (MATTHEW 27:40). THIS IS TOTAL HUMILIATION. IT'S REALLY BAD, RIGHT? TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER. THIS IS NOT JUST ANOTHER CRIMINAL GETTING CRUCIFIED, THIS IS THE WORD MADE FLESH, THE MESSIAH, IT'S GOD! IF YOU HAVE NEVER STOPPED AND BEEN IN AWE OF GOD, STOP NOW!!! TAKE THIS IN, GOD BECAME A MAN AND WILLINGLY SUBJECTED HIMSELF TO HUMILIATION. GOD, THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS TOOK ON OUR FLESH AND LET HIS CREATION NAIL HIM TO A CROSS AND TO TAUNT HIM AND SPEW RIDICULOUS INSULTS AT HIM. GOD LET "US" KILL HIM. THIS MEANS MORE THAT OUR THOUGHT THAT GOD SIMPLY SENT JESUS TO BE CRUCIFIED. IF JESUS IS GOD THEN THIS IS NOT THE FULL PICTURE. GOD TOOK ON A BOMBARDMENT OF HUMILIATION. THE SIGN THAT WAS ABOVE HIM WAS A JOKE AND YET THE POWERFUL REALITY WAS AND IS THAT BEING KING WAS MORE THAN PRESTIGE AND SUPERIORITY. IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD, JESUS FIRMS THE FOUNDATIONS BY HUMBLING HIMSELF AND BECOMES A SERVANT.

GOD LET "US" KILL HIM.

REFLECT

THE IMAGE BELOW IS OF THE SIGN THAT WAS HUNG ABOVE JESUS' HEAD WHILE BEING CRUCIFIED. ONE OF THE WORST FEELINGS IN LIFE IS TO BE HUMILIATED. IT FEELS, IN MANY WAYS, LIKE WE ARE ROBBED OF DIGNITY. HOW CAN SEEING JESUS AS A HUMBLE KING BRING YOU INTO A MORE CONTENT AND AFFIRMED PLACE IN YOUR LIFE? JESUS BEING SATISFIED BY GOD'S LOVE SEEMS TO BE THE ANCHOR.



TAKE
A FEW
MOMENTS.

HERE IS
THE
KING OF
THE JEWS

PAUSE,
BE STILL,
BE QUIET.

PRAYER

JESUS I KNOW I TRY HARD TO IMPRESS OTHERS OR WIN PEOPLE OVER. I MAY TRY AND PERFORM FOR PEOPLE OR EVEN AVOID PEOPLE BECASUE I DO NOT WANT TO BE EMBARRASED OR HUMILIATED. HELP ME TO BE CONFIDENT IN YOU NO MATTER WHAT SIGNS ARE POSTED ABOVE MY HEAD BY OTHERS.

/// AMEN



DAY 7: DEATH

LUKE 23:46

JESUS CALLED OUT WITH A LOUD VOICE, "FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." [E] WHEN HE HAD SAID THIS, HE BREATHED HIS LAST.

ALL ROADS LEAD HERE, THE DEATH OF JESUS. AFTER HOURS OF SUFFERING, PAIN AND HUMILIATION JESUS DIES. AS MENTIONED IN DAY 6, IT'S STARTLING TO THINK, GOD CAME AND DIED AT THE HANDS OF MAN. WE DID NOT OVERPOWER HIM, HE LAID DOWN HIS LIFE WILLINGLY. HE'S A GOOD SHEPHERD AND LAYS HIS LIFE DOWN FOR THE SHEEP (JOHN 10:11). MOST ANCIENT GODS DEMAND A SACRIFICE FROM THOSE WHO WORSHIP. BUT GOD (HOLD ON BECASUE THIS IS ASTOUNDING!!!!) COMES TO US AND GIVES HIMSELF AS A SACRIFICE FOR US. THIS IS NOT HOW GOD'S BEHAVE, BUT THIS IS THE LORD GOD, JEHOVAH! THE THING THAT MAN IS SO SCARED OF, DEATH, GOD COMES AND EXPERIENCES HIMSELF. AS DISTURBING AND UGLY AS THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH IS TO LOOK AT WE MUST ENDEAVOR TO SEE IT AS THE PRICE FOR SIN. HERE IS THE PROGRESSION: SIN LEADS TO DEATH, JESUS BECAME SIN AND IS PUT TO DEATH ON THE CROSS, SIN HAS BEEN KILLED IN THE BODY OF JESUS, THROUGH FAITH WE CAN BE LIBERATED FROM SIN BECASUE IT'S BEEN DEALT WITH AT THE CROSS. BOTH SIN AND DEATH MEET JESUS AT THE CROSS, THE GROUNDZERO TO OUR FREEDOM. JESUS WOULD BE PUT IN A BORROWED TOMB UNTIL HE WAS RAISED TO LIFE ON EASTER SUNDAY. DEATH IS SCARY, IT ULTIMATE, IT IS THE ONE EQUALIZER TO THE POOR AND RICH, THE FAITHFUL AND THE FAITHLESS, THE POPULAR AND THE OUTCAST. DEATH IS FINAL. BUT IN CHRIST AND THE SOON COMING RESURRECTION, DEATH IS NOT THE END.

GOD EXPEREINCES DEATH.

REFLECT

THE IMAGE BELOW IS OF A SKULL AND REPRESENTS DEATH. TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS TRUTH, "YOUR SIN HAS BEEN KILLED IN THE BODY OF JESUS." WHAT NEW PLACES OF FREEDOM BECOME REAL WHEN WE TRUST JESUS' WORK ON THE CROSS. DEATH IS NOT YOUR ULTIMATE END, CHRIST IS AND IN HIM YOU HAVE NEW LIFE.



TAKE
A FEW
MOMENTS.



PAUSE,
BE STILL,
BE QUIET.

PRAYER

GOD I WANT TO SEE MORE OF MY SIN KILLED OFF. I TRUST YOUR SACRIFICE. I WANT TO DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED DEATH ON MY BEHALF. I WANT NEW LIFE! BUILD MY FAITH IN THIS TRUTH: SIN HAS NO MORE POWER, YOU HAVE OVERCOME MY SIN AND I HAVE FREEDOM IN YOU!

/// AMEN

