

# Simon Helps Jesus Carry the Cross

Mark 15:21



# Simon of Cyrene

- Cyrene was a city in modern day Libya (located in Northern Africa).
- Mark mentions that he was the father to Alexander and Rufus. This detail gives us specific information of the person's family.
- He was coming into Jerusalem from the country and was picked out of the crowd by the Roman soldiers.
- He was compelled to carry Jesus's cross for Him. When forced to do this very act of carrying Jesus's *patibulum* or "cross bar".

## “Carrying Your Cross”

- a form of public humiliation that criminals had to do as they left the scourging site and made the trek to the place of the crucifixion.
- The cross bar was the horizontal bar that was nailed into place once the criminal arrived with those escorting him.
- It was customary for the criminal to carry it themselves, but in cases where the beating or flogging was too unbearable, someone would be asked to step in and carry the beam for them.

# Jesus, physically, needed help

- Carrying someone else's cross was similar in nature to a Roman soldier asking a Roman citizen in Roman occupied territories to carry their gear for up to one mile. The person was compelled to carry it and it was Roman law that the person oblige. Jesus made mention of this fact and encouraged his disciples to carry the burden and extra mile, beyond the one that was asked to be carried.
- Simon represents for all what it looks like to join in the suffering of Christ.
- This Shows Jesus's humanity -- "Fully God and Fully Man"

# The Distance

- Approximately 600-800 Meters
- This is not a very long distance to carry the cross.
- Which demonstrates Jesus's inability to carry the cross for himself.
- Emphasis then goes to the flogging and scourging He suffered while in the city of Jerusalem.



# The Weight of Sin of the World

- Jesus was struggling to carry the cross.
- He was literally, spiritually and metaphorically, bearing the burden of what it meant to approach Calvary (i.e. to die for the sin of the world).
- What does this mean for us as well.

# We Carry One Another's Burdens

- Being there for one another is a very important element of Christian discipleship.
- Allowing others to assist us in our struggles is essential in this journey.
- James 5:16 “<sup>16</sup>Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”

# Achan's Sin – Joshua 7

- Josue 7: removing sin from the camp.
- Maybe we are wondering, “what does this have to do with Jesus”?
- Jesus became sin so as to satisfy God's requirement for atonement.
- The “scapegoat” theology of sending out the sin of the people into the wilderness (2 Cor. 5:21).

## For Christ, it meant:

- Jesus would die the death of a criminal
- **Isaias 53:4–6** <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.

## Isaias 53:10-12

**10** Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes 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.

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

**12** 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.

# Golgotha – Calvaria(o) - Calvary

- Hebrew: Golgota
- Latin: Calvaria (Calavera) “Calvario” en Espanol
- Greek: Kraniou (Skull) – “Cranio”



