

## **DAY 6: THE COST OF THE CROSS (GOOD FRIDAY)**

The streets were now filled with hostility as Jesus made His way toward the cross. The culmination of His earthly mission was approaching. Jesus knew this would be a moment of unimaginable suffering. Jesus, who had spent His life loving, healing, and teaching, was now about to bear the weight of the world's sin. His hands and feet would be pierced, and the full measure of God's righteous judgment against sin would fall on Him, the sinless One.

As He carried the cross, Jesus was mocked and spit on. The very people He came to save turned away from Him, ridiculing and condemning Him. Yet He pressed forward, fully aware that His sacrifice was the only path for humanity to be reconciled to God.

### **MATTHEW 27:27-31, 35-37, 50-51**

**“Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ they said. They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the head again and again. After they had mocked Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him...**

**When they had crucified Him, they divided up His clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. Above His head they placed the written charge against Him: This is Jesus, the King of the Jews...**

**And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, He gave up His spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split, and the tombs broke open.”**

Now, the cross has become more than a symbol of suffering. The cross stands as the ultimate demonstration of love. Jesus, who had no sin, took upon Himself the penalty for all of humanity's wrongdoing. As Romans 6:23 reminds us, the wages of sin is

death, and Jesus willingly paid that cost in full. He endured the unimaginable so that we could receive forgiveness, grace, and the gift of eternal life.

At the moment of His death, the temple veil was torn in two, signaling that the barrier between God and humanity had been removed forever. What was once inaccessible was now open through Jesus. Through His sacrifice, we have direct access to God's presence and mercy.

Yet the price of sin was great. Salvation is freely offered to us; it demands the perfect sacrifice of God's own Son. The cross stands as a reminder that our freedom, forgiveness, and hope came at a profound cost. Jesus gave His life so we could be free from the power of sin.

## **REFLECT**

Pause and consider the depth of Jesus' sacrifice. What does the cross mean to you personally? Have you truly embraced the grace He offers through His death? Take some time today to thank God for His incredible love and provision. If there's any sin, guilt, or burden you've been holding onto, bring it to the cross and allow Jesus' sacrifice to set you free.

## **PRAYER**

Jesus, thank You for giving Your life in my place on the cross. I cannot fully comprehend the cost of what You did, but I am deeply grateful. Thank You for opening the way to God and for the freedom Your sacrifice provides. Help me to live in that freedom and to remember daily the love and price You paid for my salvation. Amen.