

GOOD FRIDAY WALK TO THE CROSS



Praying in The Garden

Jesus knew what would happen this week.

He retreated to the garden to pray and prepare Himself.

Start your journey along the prayer path.

Pause on the patio.

Read: *Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and His disciples followed Him. On reaching the place, He said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.*
-Luke 22:39-46

Reflect: What is an area of your life where you need to pray, "Father, not my will, but Yours be done"?

Pray: *God, give me the strength to submit to Your will, even when it is difficult.*

Walking to the Cross

Continue walking along the path to the cross.

Pause at different spots along the path, **read** a section of the Crucifixion story, and **reflect** on Jesus' experience.

While Jesus was still speaking, a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss Him, but Jesus asked Him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"
-Luke 22:47-48

When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?" And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

But Jesus answered, "No more of this!" And he touched the man's ear and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns."
-Luke 22:49-53

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

-Luke 22:54-62

The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" And they said many other insulting things to him.

-Luke 22:63-64

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

For the third time he spoke to them: "Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him."

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

-Luke 23:20-25

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."

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself."

There was a written notice above him, which read: "This is the King of the Jews."

-Luke 23:35-38

At the Foot at the Cross

You'll exit the tunnel of trees and arrive at the cross.

Stop and sit on the bench in front of the cross.

When they came to a place called The Skull, they nailed Him to the cross. And the criminals were also crucified—one on His right and one on His left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."

-Luke 23:33-34

One of the criminals hanging beside Him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it! But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom."

-Luke 23:39-42

We need forgiveness for two types of sins – omission and commission. A sin of omission is failing to do something good or right that one ought to do, while a sin of commission is actively doing something wrong or sinful.

Pray: Jesus, forgive me for these sins of omission...

Pray: Jesus, forgive me for these sins of commission...

Reflect on Jesus' reply to the repentant criminal on the cross.

Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

-Luke 23:43

Read: *It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.*

-Luke 23:44-49

Back into the World

Continue down the hill and back to the patio.

Sit in the blue chairs and reflect on the globe firepit.

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

-Luke 23:50-54

Jesus had died, and His followers returned to the world, uncertain of what the next few days would bring.

Reflect: What stood out to you in this story today?

Pray: *Thank Jesus for His sacrifice and great act of love.*

NEXT STEPS

Walk on the concrete trail to complete the prayer path. As you walk out or on the drive home, reflect or share about your experience.

Reflect: What was something you experienced during the Good Friday prayer walk? What was the most meaningful part of the prayer walk?

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