

Good Friday

Read Mark 14:32 through 15:47

We're approaching Jesus in His Passion today. Passion comes from the Greek word "pati", meaning "to suffer". I need you to know I write with holy trepidation. As we near the Cross, you'll see I've chosen to simply outline the events, and include some medical links. I'm asking Holy Spirit to meet us and paint the pictures of His choosing in our minds. May they lead us to the sincerest worship and adoration. While Good Friday is when we traditionally observe Jesus' crucifixion, Good Friday actually begins at sundown the evening before, as does His suffering. We'll pick up there.

After the Passover meal Jesus and His men went out to the Mount of Olives and Jesus went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane. He asked His men to keep watch. Studying Mark 14:37-42, record how many times Jesus returned and found them asleep.

If we're honest, we won't throw stones at the boys. Let's ask Holy Spirit to help us stay awake to Christ's suffering and conscious of His Passion throughout this Good Friday.

In Mark 14:36 we find Jesus asking His Father if there is any way for this cup of suffering to be removed. How does Jesus' wanting a way out of the suffering make you feel?

Hearing Jesus' request, however painful, encourages me to be honest with His Father and mine when I'm scared and anxious. What does Mark 14:36 tell us Jesus did after making that request?

Jesus wasn't joyful about what lay ahead, but He yielded to God's will. It's okay to ask God for a way out, but we need to learn to ask Him for strength to face what He allows. Record I Corinthians 10:13 below.

Have you ever heard someone say God won't give you more than you can handle? This verse in Corinthians is often used as proof, but that's not what it says. There's much in this life we can't handle—on our own. The promise isn't that unbelievably trying times won't come. The promise to those who trust God is that He'll provide a way for us to *bear it*.

*The Passion has begun.

~Judas arrives with the temple guards to betray Jesus with a kiss.

~Jesus' disciples flee, just as He had predicted.

~Jesus is taken to Annas, father-in-law to the high priest Caiaphas, and then on to Caisphas. Jesus spends Thursday night being mocked, struck repeatedly, and condemned in a farce of a trial. His "crime" is owning His identify as Son of God.

~Friday morning, the Jewish leaders take an exhausted, hungry, beaten Jesus to Pilate, the Roman Governor, who sends Him to Herod, ruler of the Jews. Herod interrogates Him, receives no reply from Jesus, and returns Him to Pilate.

~Demands for Jesus to be crucified finally overcome Pilate's hesitancy. He washes his hands, symbolizing that he considers himself guiltless of Jesus' blood. Pilate then has Jesus flogged and hands him over for Crucifixion. Follow this link for a medical description of what Jesus endured:

http://www.tonycooke.org/free_resources/holiday_resources/medical_description.html

~Enjoying the brutality, the Roman soldiers add as much humiliation and pain as possible. To mock Jesus' claim to be King, they clothe Him with a scarlet robe, place a crown of thorns on his head, and put a reed in His hand to mimic a ruler's scepter. (Matthew 27:27-32)

~Jesus is made to carry His own cross on His flayed and bleeding flesh and up the hill to Golgotha, the place of His crucifixion, known also as The Place of the Skull, and Calvary.

~Jesus spends Friday on the Cross. Here is a medical account of what He endured.
<https://outreachmagazine.com/resources/22356-jesus-cross-medical.html>

~At 3 o'clock Friday afternoon, Jesus cries out and dies. The temple curtain is torn in two. Graves open, and their inhabitants are seen alive.

~Right before sundown, Jesus' side is pierced with a spear to confirm that He is dead. His body is removed from the Cross by Joseph of Arimathea and buried in a borrowed tomb.

All of these events played out before the eyes of those who hated Jesus, those who loved Him— and those who were indifferent to Him. I don't think I've ever been in the first group, but I know I've been in the last two. How about you?

May we spend this day in adoration of Jesus, the perfect Lamb of God. As the old song says, "He loved us 'ere we knew Him."

"Victory in Jesus"

I heard an old, old story,
How a Savior came from glory,
How He gave His life on Calvary
To save a wretch like me;
I heard about His groaning,
Of His precious blood's atoning,
Then I repented of my sins
And won the victory.

Chorus

O victory in Jesus,
My Savior, forever.
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood.

I heard about His healing,
Of His cleansing pow'r revealing.
How He made the lame to walk again

And caused the blind to see;
And then I cried, "Dear Jesus,
Come and heal my broken spirit,"
And somehow Jesus came and bro't
To me the victory.

I heard about a mansion
He has built for me in glory.
And I heard about the streets of gold
Beyond the crystal sea;
About the angels singing,
And the old redemption story,
And some sweet day I'll sing up there
The song of victory.

~Words and Music by E.M. Bartlett

*The timeline of Jesus' suffering has been compiled from all four gospels.