

# GOOD FRIDAY

## SELF-GUIDED DEVOTIONAL

### LIVE OAK COMMUNITY CHURCH

\*FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FOCUS AND THINK.

\*THIS DEVOTIONAL IS DIVIDED INTO 4 PARTS. IF YOU ARE SHORT ON TIME YOU CAN STILL HAVE A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE GOING THROUGH THE SECTIONS YOU HAVE TIME FOR.

\*YOU WILL FIND PASSAGES TO READ IN BLACK AND THOUGHTS FOR CONTEMPLATION IN MAROON.

\* YOU MIGHT WANT TO GRAB A JOURNAL OR SOME PAPER TO WRITE YOUR THOUGHTS AS YOU GO

\*IF YOU FIND MUSIC ENHANCES YOUR TIMES OF PRAYER AND MEDITATION YOU CAN ACCESS A GOOD FRIDAY PLAYLIST [HERE](#) OR BY SEARCHING LIVEOAKCOMMUNITYCHURCH ON SPOTIFY

#### **PART ONE: A PLOT AND A BETRAYAL**

*(IF YOU WANT TO READ WHAT IS SUMMARIZED BELOW, GO TO MATTHEW 26:1-45)*

The Jewish religious leaders found Jesus's ministry and teachings to be subversive and dangerous. They desired to "arrest him in some sly way and kill him" (John 26:4). It was just a matter of finding the perfect time and way to do that. One of Jesus's own disciples, Judas, was willing to betray him in exchange for 30 silver coins. Scripture tells us that Jesus knew Judas would betray him. Jesus knew what was coming. While eating the Passover Meal with his 12 disciples Jesus predicted Judas's betrayal and also predicted that Peter would, three times, deny knowing and following Jesus.

After the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples went to Gethsemane. He fully knew what was ahead for him and his soul was "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death." (Matthew 26:38). He wanted to spend time praying and had asked his disciples to sit near him and keep watch over him. Three times he went away to pray and every time he returned to his men, he found them sleeping and NOT keeping watch as he asked.

**SPEND A FEW MOMENTS TO CONSIDER HOW JESUS MUST HAVE FELT AT GETHSEMANE.**

**HE WAS GRIEVED TO THE DEEPEST EXTENT, KNOWING HE WOULD SOON BE FACING BETRAYAL, ARREST, EXTREME PHYSICAL PAIN, DEATH, AND WORST OF ALL, HE WOULD BEAR THE SIN OF THE WORLD ON HIS SINLESS SHOULDERS.**

**WANTING HIS CLOSEST FRIENDS TO SIMPLY KEEP WATCH WASN'T MUCH TO ASK, BUT THEY DIDN'T DO IT. IT'S EASY TO ROLL OUR EYES AT HIS DISCIPLES AND WONDER HOW THEY COULD BE SO WEAK. HOW THEY COULD BE SUCH NEGLIGENT FRIENDS AND FOLLOWERS. BUT HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU NEGLECTED WHAT JESUS ASKS OF YOU? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU NEGLECTED TO MAKE SPACE FOR HIM IN YOUR BUSY LIFE? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU NEGLECTED TO SHIFT YOUR FOCUS FROM YOUR OWN WILL AND DESIRES ONTO HIM?**

## **PART TWO: THE ARREST**

The arrest of Jesus occurs at Gethsemane after three times, Jesus found his disciples sleeping. Read the account of Jesus's arrest from Matthew 26:47-56 below...

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend."

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

**CONSIDER THIS SENTENCE: "THEN ALL THE DISCIPLES DESERTED HIM AND FLED."**

**JUST MOMENT'S BEFORE THEY FLED, ONE OF JESUS' S COMPANIONS (THE BOOK OF JOHN SAYS IT WAS PETER) DREW A SWORD TO PROTECT JESUS. AND NOW HE AND THE OTHERS HAVE LITERALLY FLED IN TERROR. AND THE BIBLICAL NARRATIVE TELLS US THAT "BEFORE THE ROOSTER CROWED" PETER WOULD GO ON TO DENY KNOWING AND FOLLOWING JESUS THREE SEPARATE TIMES.**

**IN YOUR OWN LIFE YOU PROBABLY TRY TO BE STEADFAST AND LOYAL AND NOT BE SOMEONE WHO WOULD FLEE WHEN TIMES ARE HARD. ARE THERE TIMES THOUGH, WHEN YOU COULD HAVE STOOD UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS BUT YOU KEPT QUIET INSTEAD? HAS THERE BEEN A TIME YOU COULD YOU HAVE BEEN BOLD ABOUT WHO JESUS IS, AND INSTEAD CHOSE THE EASIER, COMFORTABLE PATH?**

**SPEND SOME TIME THANKING JESUS FOR WHO HE IS AND FOR PLANTING HIS REDEMPTION STORY IN YOUR HEART. ASK HIM TO GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO NOT DESERT THAT STORY WHEN YOU ARE CALLED TO SHARE IT AND LIVE IT.**

### **PART THREE: TRIAL AND SENTENCING**

After Jesus was arrested he was questioned by the High Priest and then taken to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate, having found no basis for charge against Jesus, wanted the Jewish leaders to judge Jesus by their own law. The Jewish leaders pushed back on this because under their law they had no right execute anyone. (John 18:28-31)

Read what happens from Matthew 27:11-26 below...

Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

"Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

"What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

"Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

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!"

All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

LUKE 23 TELLS US THAT BARABBAS WAS IMPRISONED FOR BOTH INSURRECTION IN THE CITY AND MURDER. HE WAS AN ACTUAL CRIMINAL AND WAS RIGHTEOUSLY IMPRISONED. HOWEVER, THE JEWS CALLED FOR HIS RELEASE AND FREEDOM, INSTEAD OF THE CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF A SINLESS JESUS. THIS IS SUCH A PICTURE OF CHRIST'S WORK ON THE CROSS. THE SINLESS SAVIOR BORE THE CROSS SO THAT THOSE OF US IN THE BONDAGE OF SIN ARE GIVEN FREEDOM, WITHOUT DESERVING IT OR BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO EVER DESERVE IT. THINK ON THIS FOR A MINUTE.

SPEND A FEW MOMENTS THANKING JESUS FOR TAKING YOUR PLACE. FOR BEARING THE CROSS, THE PENALTY OF DEATH THAT SIN DESERVES. LIKE BARRABAS, WE ACTUALLY DESERVE CONDEMNATION, BUT INSTEAD, WE ARE SET FREE FROM SIN.

CONSIDER PRAYING AND MEDIATATING ON THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES... THE UNDERLINED WORDS HAVE BEEN CHANGED SO YOU CAN PERSONALIZE THEM...

Romans 6:6

For I know that my old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that I should no longer be a slave to sin.

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward me, in that while I was yet a sinner, Christ died for me.

1 Peter 2:24

"He himself bore my sins" in his body on the cross, so that I might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds I have been healed."

## **PART FOUR: CRUCIFIXION AND A FINAL WORD**

Read these passages from the book of John about the crucifixion and death of Christ found in John 19: 16-40 below...

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my garment."  
So this is what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side

with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

JESUS SAID, "IT IS FINISHED." WITH THAT HE BOWED HIS HEAD AND GAVE UP HIS SPIRIT.

WITH THOSE WORDS AND A FINAL BREATH, JESUS COMPLETED WHAT HE CAME HERE TO DO. IT IS EASY TO WANT TO KEEP READING THE SCRIPTURE NARRATIVE AND FAST FORWARD TO WHAT WE KNOW HAPPENS THREE DAYS LATER. BUT LET US PAUSE AND LIVE IN THIS MOMENT. LET US LIVE IN THE GRAVITY THAT God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21).

TAKE IN THE THOUGHT THAT JESUS BORE EVERY SIN, ALL SIN, YOUR SIN—PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. HE BECAME THE ONCE AND FOR ALL SIN SACRIFICE AND IN DOING SO, HE EXPERIENCED SEPERATION FROM HIS FATHER.

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED THAT OF EVERYTHING JESUS WENT THROUGH-- BETRAYAL, FALSE IMPRISONMENT, FLOGGINGS, MOCKING, A CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD, THE SHEER AGONY OF CRUCIFIXION...OF ALL THESE THINGS, SEPARATION FROM HIS FATHER, WITH WHOM HE LOVED AND HAD PERFECT COMMUNION WITH, WAS THE VERY WORST AND PAINFUL ASPECT? FURTHERMORE, CONSIDER THAT BECAUSE JESUS WAS WILLING TO EXPERIENCE THIS SEPARATION, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

FINISH YOUR REFLECTION TIME BY READING AND THINKING ON THIS PASSAGE FROM ISAIAH 53. HERE THE PROPHET SPOKE OF THE JESUS TO COME:

Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.  
Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
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.  
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.

SIT WITH YOUR THOUGHTS FOR A FEW MINUTES MORE.  
SIT "IN FRIDAY" FOR AWHILE BEFORE YOU MOVE "TO SUNDAY".  
WHAT ONE OR TWO BIG TAKEAWAYS DO YOU HAVE FROM SPENDING TIME  
REFLECTING ON THE CROSS OF CHRIST? IS GOD MOVING IN YOUR HEART IN ANY CERTAIN  
WAY? ARE YOU WILLING TO SIT AND BE STILL FOR A FEW MOMENTS AND JUST LISTEN?

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**WE ARE SO THANKFUL THAT GOOD FRIDAY WAS NOT THE END OF  
THE STORY, AND THIS EASTER WE WILL CLING TO THE HOPE WE  
HAVE IN OUR LIVING SAVIOR! JOIN US FOR "EASTER: JESUS  
CHANGES EVERYTHING" ONLINE THIS SATURDAY, APRIL 11 AT 6PM  
AND SUNDAY APRIL 12 AT 8:30, 10:00, 11:30, AND 1:30.**

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