

# In Preparation for the Cross

Adapted from  
*Stations of the Cross: A Devotional Guide for Lent and Holy Week* by Mark D. Roberts

## Day 1 – The Last Supper & The Garden

**READ** Luke 22: 7-27, 39-54 (also Matthew 26:17-56; Mark 14:12-50)

**CONSIDER AND RESPOND** – Jesus' struggle in the garden (Luke 22:41-44) means He understands when I am tested and weak and not sure that I want God's will for my life. In Jesus I have not a god who is watching from a distance, but One who knows my every weakness, and who's there to help me in time of trial. Indeed, Scripture says that Christ Himself intercedes for me (Romans 8:34)! I can come before God with complete honesty, holding nothing back, and pour out my heart to the Lord. And He understands because He's been there.

## Day 2 – The Trial & Death Sentence

**READ** – Luke 22:63-71; Luke 23:1-25  
(also Matthew 26:57-68, 27:1-2, 11-26; Mark 14:53-64; 15:1-15)

**CONSIDER AND RESPOND** – The Jewish officials didn't understand what it meant for Jesus to be Messiah, and they condemned Him as a criminal worthy of death. His own followers didn't understand either, so they scattered and hid in His hour of crisis. What does it mean when I confess Jesus to be the Christ, the Messiah? How does that impact the way I think? the way I live?

## Day 3 – The Beatings & Carrying the Cross

**READ** Matthew 27:26-31; Mark 14:65, 15:15-21; John 19:2-3

**CONSIDER AND RESPOND** – Through His arrest, trial, sentencing, beatings, and being made to carry His cross, it can look like Jesus was just a victim of injustice. Yet He chose the cross. In a very real sense, the religious leaders, Pilate and the soldiers were simply working out what God had willed and Jesus had freely and painfully chosen.

Because He took up the cross, I can take up life in all of its fullness. Because He was led to die, I can be led into eternal life. Because He bore my sin, I can have His forgiveness.

## Day 4 – The Cross

**READ** – Luke 23:33-47  
(also Matthew 27:33-54; Mark 15:22-39; John 19:17-37)

**CONSIDER AND RESPOND** – God, who is without sin, became a human, came to earth and died for me, a sinner, so that I can have a relationship with Him forever. Because He loves me. Isn't that unbelievable? Almost crazy? What a radical thing! Or have I heard it long enough that the Gospel, the good news, is just old news? The Apostle Paul said the cross is "foolishness" to those who don't believe. It's so implausible that it just can't be true. But to those who believe, it is eternal life. What an incredible sacrifice! Christ died for me!

What's my response?

Have I heard it for so long that I take it for granted? Or does the reality of His sacrifice still leave me in awe and thanksgiving?

## Day 5 – How Deep the Father's Love!

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

*John 3:16*

### **READ, CONSIDER AND RESPOND:**

*How deep the Father's love for us  
How vast beyond all measure  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure*

*How great the pain of searing loss  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory*

*Behold the Man upon a cross  
My sin upon His shoulders  
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers*

*It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished  
His dying breath has brought me life  
I know that it is finished*

*I will not boast in anything  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ  
His death and resurrection*

*Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer  
But this I know with all my heart  
His wounds have paid my ransom*