

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Station 1: Jesus Condemned

Mark 15: 16-20 16 The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. 17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. 18 And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" 19 Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Personal:

- ◆ Place yourself in the crowd that day.
- ◆ When have You become a Pilate to Jesus ? Remaining silent in public when truth is denied, not taking action when others are treated unjustly ?
- ◆ When have You been wrongly accused or misjudged ? How did You feel?

Corporate:

- ◆ confessing personally for times we have gone along with the crowd and not spoken out

Station 2: Jesus Carries His Cross

Mark 8:34-36. 34 Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 35 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. 36 What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

Personal:

- ◆ How often do You protest that my particular cross is too heavy ?
- ◆ There are burdens we all carry, some obvious and others we take great care to hide. Burdens of illness, pain, disability, fear, loneliness, rejection, abuse ...the invitation is to hand these over to Jesus. What are the burdens you carry today?

Corporate:

- ◆ Pray we would submit to the Lordship of Christ
- ◆ Pray we would follow him even when work is difficult to the future looks bleak
- ◆ Pray we would allow Him to direct our steps and give up being in control of our lives
- ◆ Pray we would be more aware of the crosses others bear and take time to alleviate their burden.

Station 3. Jesus Falls for the First Time

Isaiah 53:4-7

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.
5 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.

6 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.
7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

Personal:

- ◆ In the hurt and pain of some of our experiences of life, do we ask 'where is God?' and turn from Him, or do we look to Jesus and stand up and keep walking
- ◆ May we hold in our hearts those who may have fallen on hard times, difficulties, or moments of doubt and challenge.
- ◆ Confessing corporately for times the church in general has remained silent, asking for forgiveness when we have misjudged or wrongly accused others pray those things that strike you about the scene

Corporate:

- ◆ Pray we would be messengers of peace amidst darkness in our communities, and workplaces
- ◆ Pray we would keep our eyes and hopes fixed on Jesus and being obedient to him no matter how difficult life is.
- ◆ Pray even though we fall and give in to temptation that we would rise again stronger

Station 4: Jesus Meets his Mother

Personal:

- ◆ Are we fiercely protective of Jesus from the scorn of others?
- ◆ Are we present to those who suffer and are afflicted ?

Corporate:

- ◆ Pray we would be present to those of our brothers and sisters who are hungry, tired, sad, in pain
- ◆ Pray we would be present for those in our neighbourhoods and workplaces in the same - situation

Station 5: Simon helps carry the cross

Acts 20:35 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Personal:

- ✦ Place yourself in Simons shoes. What are you feeling? What do you see in Jesus eyes?
- ✦ Can we embrace unexpected difficulties, challenges that have been thrust upon us ? And to know that even in the extreme moments we find that Jesus is walking alongside us.
- ✦ Do we see Jesus in the poor and needy, and in the strangers that we meet along the way?

Corporate:

- ✦ know that even in the extreme moments we find that Jesus is walking alongside us.
- ✦ Pray we would be willing to be interrupted in our days to serve others.
- ✦ Pray our eyes would be opened to see the needs of others around us
- ✦ Pray that as a Church we would be recognized as people who give of ourselves to others - May we be equally willing to receive the help of others in our own lives and lay aside pride.

Station 6: Veronica Wipes Jesus face

Matt 25:40 - 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Personal:

- ✦ Do we meet the eyes of those we pass on the street , or look away?
- ✦ Do we share a greeting with those we pass, a word of recognition or stay silent, lost in our own world?
- ✦ Are we so absorbed in our own lives, that we bypass those who need a small and simple blessing ?

Corporate:

- ✦ Pray for ourselves and for us as a Church That we would welcome others
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- ✦ Pray that we would be filled with love and compassion
- ✦ Pray we would be a people who bless and encourage in simple ways
- ✦ Pray for forgiveness for getting so caught up in our own world that we miss these Opportunities

Station 7: Jesus Falls the Second Time

2 Cor 4:8-9 - 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Personal:

- ◆ Let us contemplate Jesus being brought to the lowest of places
- ◆ How can we walk alongside those who are weak and broken today ?

Corporate:

- ◆ Prayers of surrender to the one who has suffered so much for us
- ◆ Prayers remembering that without Christ we are weak and helpless

Station 8. Jesus Meets the Women

Personal:

- ◆ Imagine their faces so full of love and gratitude, loss and fear
- ◆ Contemplate what words might have passed between them
- ◆ Place yourself with these women and may it stir deep gratitude.

Corporate:

- ◆ Prayers of thanksgiving for Jesus obedience and submission to the father
- ◆ Pray we would have a heart for the lost the way Jesus does
- ◆ Pray for our children and youth that they would encounter Jesus and faithfully follow him

Station 9: Jesus Falls for a Third Time

1 Peter 2:20-23 - 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

Personal:

- ◆ Let us pause to contemplate him there on the ground, the brokenness that makes us whole, the surrender that gives us life.
- ◆ May we pause to experience how completely He loves us. He is indeed completely poured out for us.

Corporate:

- ◆ Pray for those in our neighbourhoods who have fallen so many times they don't think they carry on.
- ◆ Pray for the church that even though we as Gods people fall and fail, we may turn to the Lord for strength to endure.

Station 10: Jesus is stripped

Psalm 22:15-19 - My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

16 Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce[b] my hands and my feet.

17 All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.

18 They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.

19 But you, Lord, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

John 19:23-24 - 23 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. 24 "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."^[a]
So this is what the soldiers did.

Personal:

- ◆ Let us consider today how Jesus name and dignity was so totally stripped - May we be grateful for Jesus willingness to be humiliated for our sake

Corporate:

- ◆ May we be a community of people who show others respect and dignity to others - May we live our lives in such a way that others are drawn to Jesus

Station 11: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Luke 23:35-38 - 35 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." 36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." 38 There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

Personal:

- ◆ Let us contemplate the completeness of his entering into our lives
- ◆ Can there be any pain or agony he would not understand ?
- ◆ Can you give your pain, hurts, disappointments, failures to the one who's arms are open wide on the cross?

Corporate:

- ◆ Prayers of gratitude for the depth of His love for us, for the suffering He endured for us.

Station 12: Jesus dies

Mark 15:37-39 - 37 With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

38 The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died,[a] he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

Hebrews 10:19-23 - 19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

Personal:

- ✦ Let us ponder the depth of what it means that Jesus died for us for until we grasp this we are not able to rejoice in the resurrection

Corporate:

- ✦ Pray we would be willing to live counter culturally since what the world views as failure or myth, believers know it to be the greatest success story ever.
- ✦ Pray thanksgiving for forgiveness of sin
- ✦ Pray we would have confidence to come to God boldly

13. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

Revelation 2:10 - 10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown.

Personal:

- ✦ Let us behold the scene at the foot of the cross, the lifeless body of Jesus.
- ✦ Remember all the people his hands have touched and healed, all who have been blessed by his warm embrace
- ✦ Pause to let it soak in.

Corporate:

- ✦ May we be a people completely trusting in our Lord
- ✦ May we live faithfully unto death.
- ✦ May the finality of death not oppress us but may we find out hope in Christ Alone

14. Jesus is Buried.

John 12:24 - 24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

Personal:

- ✦ Let us pause to contemplate the act of closure on his life
- ✦ Let us pause to contemplate the act of closure on his life
- ✦ Stand for a moment outside the tomb and may this final journey of his life show us the true meaning of his gift of himself for us.

Corporate:

- ✦ Praise, thanksgiving for all He has done.
- ✦ Pray we would take up our cross and be servants of Him. Pray we would surrender every area of our lives to Him