

# GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

*Through his life and teaching, Jesus continually expressed to his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them, and by his resurrection, God assured them that God's word is true and faithful. (John 14:3). God goes before us to show us that there is a greater way than death and dismay, paving the way for our transformed hearts that lead us to newness of life. Listen to the prayers of Jesus and the responses from God. Hear of God's steadfast presence and comfort through Jesus' journey toward resurrection. Good Friday has moments of suffering, but is infused by moments of sheer grace and hope despite the trials and tribulations that occur. The following devotions will be said at the top of the hour on Facebook Live. Journey with Jesus. Pray with us. Meditate on his love for us.*

## **6:00AM      JESUS PRAYED IN THE GARDEN**

**MATTHEW 26:36-46**

Jesus leaves his friends for a moment of pause, knowing he is heading toward his final earthly hours. In the garden at Gethsemane, Jesus asks God for help in relieving him of his burden.

## **7:00AM      JESUS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED**

**MARK 14:43-52**

Jesus experiences the ultimate betrayal by one of his closest companions, a betrayal that will lead to his death. Trust is broken. One of his closest followers comes to his defense, albeit in a violent manner in which Jesus decries the brutality. How do we boldly come to the aid of those who suffer?

## **8:00AM      JESUS CONDEMNED BY THE SANHEDRIN**

**LUKE 22:66-71**

Jesus is brought before the council to defend himself as the Messiah. In his humble nature, Jesus chooses to respond to their questioning by turning their arguments back to the council. He knows their minds have already been made up and peace or rebellion would not make a difference in the outcome.

## **9:00AM      JESUS DENIED BY PETER**

**MATTHEW 26:69-75**

Peter, who had been with Jesus throughout his ministry and who cared for him deeply, gets frightened by his association with Jesus. Peter disavows this relationship in the presence of others. Jesus, however, knows the person of Peter and takes this into consideration even before the event. Jesus knows the heart of his people and remains with them.

## **10:00AM      JESUS JUDGED BY PILATE**

**MATTHEW 27:1-2,11-26**

Pilate passes the buck in sentencing Jesus to death. He allows others to bear the responsibility. Pilate had the option to advocate on behalf of Jesus, and makes a choice to appease the crowd rather than follow his heart and do the right thing. By his position as governor, Pilate had the ability to make that call. Where can we find courage in our calling to do justice for what may seem like a holy yet unpopular ideal?

## **11:00AM      JESUS SCOURGED AND CROWNED WITH THORNS      JOHN 19:1-5A**

Jesus was stripped of his own garments and forced to wear clothes that were not his, a robe and a crown he would have never have chosen to wear. Jesus was not that type of boisterous king, but a king of authentic humbleness and peace. In a resurrection, Jesus invites us to wear our authentic selves not for the world to see us, but to live as God created us.

- NOON                      JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS                      JOHN 19:15-17**  
Jesus knew this was his journey, one of glory that needed to travel through pain. He knew he could not avoid that suffering, but remained focused on the road ahead, trusting in his Father's promises.
- 1:00PM                      SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS                      MARK 15:20-21**  
A passerby was compelled into service to assist Jesus in marching forward toward Calvary. Jesus would have felt immense relief, even if for a moment, from the weight of the wooden cross. When has someone lifted your spirit in a particularly difficult time?
- 2:00PM                      JESUS COMFORTS THE WOMEN                      LUKE 23:27-31**  
The women of Jerusalem stood by and grieved for what they were witnessing. Jesus turns to them and assures them that their grief will not last; the kingdom of God extends its blessings despite worldly losses.
- 3:00PM                      JESUS IS CRUCIFIED                      LUKE 23:33-38**  
Jesus is hung for his execution among criminals. The divine stands between broken humanity. Before dying, however, he implores his loving father to forgive them despite themselves.
- 4:00PM                      JESUS PROMISES HOPE TO THE BANDIT                      LUKE 23:39-43**  
One of the criminals grasps to know the last-minute truth; he begs for mercy. Jesus responds with an openness and welcome to say that no person, no sinner, will be forgotten in God's eyes.
- 5:00PM                      JESUS COMMENDS MARY AND JOHN TO ONE ANOTHER                      JOHN 19:25B-27**  
Jesus turns to his mother and tells Mary to take care of his companion, John. He then turns to his beloved companion, John, and tells him to take care of his mother. Jesus tears down the social construct of the strict bonds of blood family. He directs them to establish a new relationship of equal care and tenderness.
- 6:00PM                      JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS                      LUKE 23:44-49**  
Jesus breathes his last and dies. In this great release, he has let go of this world. When have you needed to let go of something of in order to allow new growth to occur?
- 7:00PM                      JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB                      MATTHEW 27:57-61**  
A man named Joseph takes the body of Jesus and inters it into his own burial tomb. This stranger became extended family to Jesus. When has a someone done something so significant for you that you no longer felt like a stranger?
- 8:00PM                      JESUS' BODY IS GUARDED                      MATTHEW 27:62-66**  
In Pilate's great fear of the resurrection, either staged or actual, he sent soldiers to seal the tomb. The soldiers went in obedience and secured the tomb to ensure that the body would not be stolen by his disciples. Pilate wanted to make sure the dead man stayed put. The soldiers were obedient and diligent, and yet God had other plans.