

Holy Week

Daily Devotionals



Day 1: Humility of Christ

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-8

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!"

Reflection

In the ministry of the cross, Christ humbled Himself by taking the nature of a servant in human likeness, and further humbled Himself by being obedient even unto death on the cross.

Humility is not about rejecting verbal praise or putting ourselves down in the eyes of others. Christian humility is about capturing in our hearts the pain of seeing our Lord Jesus humble Himself for our sake and responding by saying "I too Lord will do the same".

May the price of His humility leave a lasting wound in our hearts and exhort us to live the same.

Prayer Points

- Pray that we may each feel the pain of seeing Jesus humble Himself for us.
- Pray that we as His church will capture the same humility to serve others.

Day 2: Obedience of Christ

Scripture: Philippians 2:8

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!"

Matthew 16:24

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

Reflection

There is a difference between being a believer and being a follower/disciple. A believer accepts the free gift of salvation but makes no effort to work out his salvation. His experience of life is the same as a non-believer, perhaps on a moral high ground.

But the disciple however follows Christ, and his experience of life is the life of Christ living through him. That is only possible when we die to our flesh daily.

Prayer Points

- Lord examine us and help us to each know what areas of our lives we are still holding on to ourselves.
- Help us to die to ourselves so that the world will see you instead of us.

Day 3: Suffering of Christ

Scripture: Isaiah 53:3-5

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.”

Reflection

Many times we think that Christ only died for our sins. Yet the bible states on the cross He bore our griefs, our sorrows, the price for our peace, our healing and our transgressions and sins.

The price of the cross covers sin, but it is more than just sin. It is every dominion of the enemy over our entire spirit, soul and body. When we understand this, we can stand up victorious and claim victory over our whole spirit, soul and body.

Prayer Points

- Lord help us to live under the full price of the cross, that not one drop of your Son's sacrifice would be wasted. Everything that He purchased for us through His death on the cross, help us to claim it in faith.
- Help us as your church to give Jesus to the world. The full ministry of everything the cross won for us, the forgiveness of sins, peace over our sorrows and healing for our sicknesses.

Day 4: Forgiveness of our sins in Christ

Scripture: 1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Reflection

Christ came to die once and He sat down at the right hand of God. His role in salvation was finished. There is nothing more that Jesus Christ needs to do for the forgiveness of our sins. All that is left, is for us to receive it by faith.

Sometimes we have good days and bad days, because we judge our closeness to God based on our actions that day. But in Christ there are only good days, because everyday, whether we feel it or not, we are under the blood and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Points

- Lord, I confess my sins. Thank you for dying on the cross and paying the price for my sins. Today, I receive my forgiveness with a grateful heart.
- Dear Lord, please give me the wound of contrition that all the days of my life, the cross, the sorrow of the sufferings of Jesus and the joy of my salvation will be fresh to me. In Jesus' name I pray amen.

Day 5: The Love of Christ

Scripture: Romans 5:8

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us".

Reflection

The Holiness of God demands that for the penalty of sin, blood be shed by an adequate substitute. Only Jesus who was sinless was deemed worthy to become a sacrificial substitute for us, once and for all, in order to atone for our sins (Heb 2:17). What is so profound is that Jesus was willing to undertake the most cruel form of execution in order to substitute Himself for our sins - and in doing so, reconcile us to Himself.

The process of death by crucifixion was designed to maximise and prolong suffering and to humiliate the criminal. Why would Jesus be willing to lower Himself from being the ruler of heaven and earth, to become a mere mortal and suffer the terrible and shameful death of the vilest criminal? In order to know the answer to this, we need the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is - a love which surpasses knowledge (Eph 3:18,19).

Prayer Points

- Dear Lord Jesus, as I meditate on the huge price you had to pay on the cross, help me to have a glimpse of how wide, long, high and deep Christ's love is so I can love my family, my neighbour and my enemies with the same unconditional love you have shown me.
- Dear Lord, given the huge sacrifice you made so I could be reconciled to God, let me live a life worthy of you, so I too can help draw others closer to you.

Day 6: Salvation in Christ

Scripture: Romans 5:9

“Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! “

Reflection

We are saved from God’s wrath and punishment for sin because we have been justified because of Christ’s profound and sacrificial work on the cross. To be justified means to be declared not guilty. It means that we have been declared righteous. This is an incredible reversal of our sinful condition and the only reason it was possible was because Jesus, the Lamb of God without blemish and the perfect high priest, took our sins and its penalty upon Himself. The result is that whoever calls upon the name of Jesus, can be fully justified and declared righteous! He or she can be saved and spend all of eternity in glory rather than suffer the penalty for our sins.

Let’s meditate on the amazing consequences of the work of Christ on the cross! Let’s be forever grateful that because of God’s amazing love for us in Christ, He has taken us from death to life!

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the ultimate sacrifice of His Son, that we might have life in Him, and have it to the full! Let’s continually remember what Jesus has done and let this reflect in our walk with Him.
- Pray for our family members, friends and colleagues who still need to hear the powerful message of the gospel.

Day 7: The Resurrection of Jesus

Scripture: Ephesians 1:19-20

"That we may know "his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms."

Reflection

The single greatest turnaround in history happened three days after Jesus was crucified. Jesus himself described what would happen to his disciples in John's gospel: "I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy" (John 16:20). It was unlikely that there had ever been a more devastated and disillusioned group of people than the disciples of Jesus on the day he was crucified. The most wonderful and amazing teacher and prophet they had ever encountered had died the most gruesome death ... and all their hopes of Jesus being the Messiah and the Christ was dashed ... until three days later, when they saw him alive!

Then they realised that everything Jesus said about Himself was true, and that He was indeed the Messiah and the Son of God! From then on, nothing would take away their joy, even though most of them died for their faith! If we too can grasp the full ramifications of the death and resurrection of Jesus, we will continue to have joy, hope, peace, love and power - that nothing in this world can take away!

Prayer Points

- Pray that we can receive and embrace the full impact of both the death and the resurrection of Jesus, that we can live a life of love, faith and power... that we can live life to the full.
- Pray that the Lord will help us walk in the resurrection power of Jesus so we can do the works that Jesus wants us to do in order to extend His Kingdom around us!