

MONDAY 4.7.25 - Matthew 27:45-50

<sup>45</sup>From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, <sup>[a]</sup> lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”). <sup>47</sup>When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.” <sup>48</sup>Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup>The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.” <sup>50</sup>And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

It is shocking to think about what they did to Jesus on that day so long ago when they nailed Him to that cross. He had done no wrong and yet he was suffering the punishment reserved for only the worst of the worst criminals. Even as He suffered this horrendous death His love for the very ones who put him on that cross came though. What kind of man could love the very ones who nailed Him to that cross? Who mocked him. Who humiliated Him. As you think about this, I want you to think about something else. You and I were among those who nailed Him to that cross. It was for our sins that He died. He did this for you and for me so that we can be saved and live for Him. In closing let me ask you, how is that working out for you today?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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TUESDAY 4.8.25 - Philippians 2:6-8

When we consider the awesome majesty of God, His greatness, holiness, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, do we realize how much Jesus had to give up just to become a man? But that wasn’t enough to accomplish His purpose of redemption. He became a servant, washing the dusty, dirty, and probably smelly feet of His disciples. But that wasn’t enough either. He allowed Himself to be brutally flogged, spat upon, and paraded through the streets of Jerusalem, enduring the mockery and torment of the people He had come to save. But that still wasn’t enough. He had to die on a cross, the worse torture the Romans could devise, alone and exposed and further

mocked with a thorny crown and nails piercing his hands and feet. Then one final anguish: complete, total separation from God the Father and the Holy Spirit, an eternal anguish we will not have to face because He GAVE Himself for us. His resurrection completed the redemptive process. How can we do any less than praise and thank Him for His great sacrifice and accept His gift of salvation?

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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WEDNESDAY 4.9.25 - John 19:38-42

The Apostle Paul informed the Corinthian believers: “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures” (1 Cor. 15:3-4). At this season of the year, we are reminded often of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. We speak much of His death and resurrection, but we talk very little about His burial. Why is it important to emphasize the burial of Christ? One reason is because His burial proves that He died. A corpse was taken down off the cross and placed in a tomb. The lifeless body of Jesus remained in the grave until He rose from the dead on the first day of the week. Because Jesus became alive again, believers have hope in their future resurrection!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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THURSDAY 4.10.25 - Isaiah 53:9

Hundreds of years before Jesus’ death on the cross Isaiah prophesied with whom Jesus would die and how he would be buried: crucified alongside criminals, “the wicked” and buried in a tomb borrowed from a “rich” man, Joseph of Arimathea,

who loved Jesus. We, as modern-day believers could say “How could the Jews not see this coming?” Every year on Maundy Thursday I think about the disciples and what they must have been feeling that Friday; they must have been terrified and heartbroken, not expecting to see Jesus on a cross. I cannot comprehend how dark those three days were for them. I am sure they were not thinking of the prophesies of Isaiah. How blessed we are to have God’s Word. We can rejoice in knowing that Jesus was victorious over the grave, and that the tomb could not hold Him! Praise the Lord!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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FRIDAY 4.11.25 - Matthew 27:57-60

Isaiah had predicted the death and burial of Jesus 700 years prior. “They would make his grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in his death...”. Jesus was crucified among two sinful thieves. He died among them and was then buried having born our sins upon himself, though he himself had no sin. After his expiration, Pilate, knowing he was dead, gave his body to a rich man, a disciple and follower of Christ. Most known disciples were poor but here is evidence that some rich also loved him. Joseph’s tomb was of solid rock to prevent interference and the great stone sealed the dead from the living. The final phrase, he ‘went away’ is curious. The burial partners thought they left him behind while they went to a better place. It is what we do after funeral and graveside services. But truth is, thanks to Jesus, believers inside behind the great stone, leave us behind and go to a better place.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

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E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

Kids	CHILDREN’S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	<b>SPRING QUARTER</b> – Sunday Mornings at 9:40  LOCATION: B8-10 – Lane Kemler- began March 2 <sup>nd</sup> . <b>EXPLORE THE BIBLE – 1,2 Peter &amp; Jude</b> - These books were written primarily to address suffering caused by persecution and to combat false teachings.  LOCATION: B11 – Randy Hutchison – begins April 27 <sup>th</sup> . <b>BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE – part 2</b> <b>Elisha: Seeing the Hand of God at Work</b> – This Old Testament prophet did miracles that pointed to the God he served. God can work through you, too.  LOCATION: B1&2 – Joel Day – begins April 27 <sup>th</sup> . <b>EVERYDAY EVANGELISM</b> <b>Out of the Cave – How Elijah Embraced God’s Hope When Darkness Was All He Could See</b> This study examines the causes of depression and discouragement and offers a Biblical approach to wellness - mind, body, and soul.

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Kids	MESSIAH KIDS (Kindergarten – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	YOUTH GROUP (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	LOCATION: Worship Center

SPRING SMALL GROUPS

**MEN’S BREAKFAST:** April 12<sup>th</sup> - 7:30am in the YAC  
Sign up at the Information Tables.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING STUDY** – Begins April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Rm. B8-10

**TOGETHER – Community That Marked the Acts 2 Church**  
Discover how being deeply connected to a community of believers can transform our lives, our cities, and the world. With Barry Wills

UPCOMING EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday Baptism Service- April 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm, refreshments to follow  
Family Communion- April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Good Friday- April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm  
Easter Sunday- April 20<sup>th</sup> 8:20am, 9:40am, and 11:00am

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,  
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

John 19:17-30  
A Brutal Death

John presents unique material about the cross of Jesus Christ.

1. The S\_\_\_\_\_ on the Cross (vv 17-22)

Unwittingly, Pilate wrote the first gospel tract. He announced that Jesus is the King of the Jews, and the Lord wants us to do the same—to share the lifesaving message of the gospel with others.

2. The S\_\_\_\_\_ beneath the Cross (vv 23-24)

A thousand years before the time of Christ, David wrote in Psalm 22:18 that they would cast lots for the Messiah’s clothing.

3. The S\_\_\_\_\_ from the Cross (vv 25-30)

John records three sayings that are not found in the other Gospels.

- “Here is your son ... Here is your mother”

Three applications:

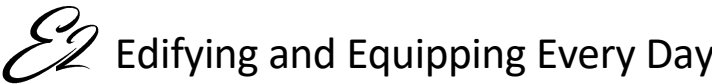
- R\_\_\_\_\_ that God can use you even if you’ve failed Him
- R\_\_\_\_\_ that spiritual bonds are stronger than natural bonds
- R\_\_\_\_\_ to honor your father and your mother

- “I am thirsty”

Jesus willingly endured the full wrath of God against man’s sin when He suffered as our substitute.

- “It is finished”

Salvation is not a joint effort of God and man, but is entirely a work of God’s grace, appropriated by faith.



TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



April 7 – April 11

INTRODUCTION:  
Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:  
Monday’s and Tuesday’s readings will be a follow up on Sunday’s message from, April 6<sup>th</sup>, “Death of Jesus”, with Pastor Doug Lyon . Wednesday’s through Friday’s devotions will help prepare us for the message on April 13<sup>th</sup>, “A Borrowed Grave”, with Pastor Doug Lyon.

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:  
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.  
John 15:12