

## DAY 1

*"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

**Luke 23:34**

"Christian" means to be Christ-like. Jesus prays for God to forgive the very ones who were killing Him. Think about that. How easy is it for you to forgive someone who mistreats you? That person who takes credit for your idea or work? That person who lies about you? To follow His example, we must forgive them. ALL of them.

Think about those who have wronged you. How do you feel about it? Do you still remember it, revisit it after all these months? After all these years?

You must let go. You must forgive.

Write down the names of those who you still have not fully forgiven. You have not fully let go. Write their name and what they did. Ask God to forgive, to let go, to be free.



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## DAY 2

*When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother."*

**John 19: 26, 27**

As the oldest son, it was the responsibility of Jesus to care for His mother, Mary. At His death, it was His responsibility to make sure she was cared for. He did this by committing her into the care of John, the beloved disciple.

However, what we fail to understand is that Jesus was not transferring His mother into the care of another family; He was making John a member of His family. In fact, He was declaring John a son.

Likewise, because of His death, we have been made sons and daughters of His family (2 Cor 6:18). Jesus said He would not leave us orphans (Jn 14:18). He was made a way for our adoption into the family of God (Rom 8:15, Gal 4:5).

Think about how John may have felt at these words of Jesus. How do you feel when you think about being in the family of God? Thank God that you have been adopted into His Family.

## DAY 3

*After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst."*

**John 19:28**

In fulfillment of Psalm 69:21, Jesus cries for a drink. Remember that it is quite probable that the last drink of liquid he had was at the Last Supper approximately 16 hours earlier. From that time He had sweated profusely in the Garden. He had been whipped. He was hanging naked on the cross exposed to the sun. He was dehydrated. His physical body was crying out for fluid.

About three years before the cross, Jesus spoke these words: "Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Mt 5:6).

Because of His dehydration and thirst, you and I can be filled.

Think about times when you have been thirsty and you couldn't wait to have a drink of cold water. Jesus' thirst was well beyond that. And He suffered that thirst for you. Do you hunger for the presence of God? Are you thirsty for the water of His Spirit?

Take a few moments and allow the Spirit of God to fill you and quench the thirst you have for His Presence.

## DAY 4

*And when Jesus cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit my Spirit."*

**Luke 23:43**

This is the message of hope! He told the thief "This Day you SHALL be with me." You SHALL be with me. We can rest assured that when we pass from this life, we SHALL be with Him. We can rest assured that our loved ones have passed from this life and are with Him.

This is a positive statement to the thief. There was no wavering, no equivocation. This was a straightforward answer: you SHALL be with me.

One of the great mysteries of life is death. We truly have no comprehensive understanding of what lies beyond. We have just what God has given us in His Word. But in His Word is HOPE! In His Word, we are told that we SHALL be with Him.

This is the culmination of our redemption. We have been reconciled to our Creator. And while we enjoy His presence now, when this life is over, we SHALL be with Him.

Take a moment and write down the names of some people you are waiting to see when you get to eternity.



## DAY 5

*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

**Matthew 27:46**

These are the words from Psalm 22, a powerful Messianic Psalm. Take a moment and read it slowly.

These are the most agonizing words Jesus spoke during the six hours He was on the cross. You can hear the emotion in His voice, the separation from the Father. This separation had to happen so that your Salvation could be accomplished. This separation was so that our Great High Priest (Heb 4:14,15) could know the separation we felt.

The separation that Jesus endured was for a moment compared to the eternal separation that we would have endured if we had not accepted Jesus and God's plan of Salvation. Take a few moments and thank God for His mercy and Salvation in your life.

Know this, that when you feel alone, we only need to cry out to Him. He knows and He understands.

Take a few moments and imagine how Jesus, Who spent all of eternity past with the Father, felt at the moment on the cross. Remember...He did it for you.

## DAY 6

*So, when Jesus had received sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."*

**John 19:30**

Jesus fully and completely accomplished ALL that HE came to do. Your debt has been paid. Your healing provided. Relationship with the Father has been restored.

The fellowship with God that had been broken in the Garden of Eden because of disobedience, was restored through the obedience of Jesus.

There is nothing left for us to do except:

1. Admit our sinfulness and need for a Savior;
2. Ask Jesus to forgive us for trying to do it on our own;
3. Accept His forgiveness, His salvation, His work, and allow Him to change us.

Think about what it was like in the Garden for God to walk with man (Gen 2:8) . Write down what you would talk about if you were there.

Now tell Him that, because He is with you now because Jesus restored the relationship.

## DAY 7

*And when Jesus has cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into your hands I commit My spirit."*

**Luke 23:46**

The hand of the Father. There is no better place to be.

Jesus had completed His purpose; there was nothing left to do. For you and I, we can do nothing else. Because of His death, we live.

The One Who created us (Ps 139:13) desires to hold us in His hand. If we commit ourselves into His hands, He will watch over us, protect us, lead and guide us. (Ps 34:7 & 15; Ps 37:23; Pro 3:5,6; Is 49:16; Jn 10:29; Jn 16:13).

The last act of a dying Savior, is the first act we should do as followers.

Read the above verses. Write down how they apply to your life. List times when God has ordered your steps and protected you. As an act of worship on this Resurrection Day, re-commit your life into His hands.