

March Devos
The Suffering and Death of Jesus Christ
Holy Week, beginning March 29, 2026

Easter is approaching. Weekly devotions are provided during March to help us draw closer to Jesus as we walk with Him through His suffering.

- These devos are designed to be used with family, friends & groups. Always better together.
- You will find a link to weekly devos on the NH App and website.
- Please consider periodic food-fasts throughout the month as a way to devote yourself to Jesus. ([See Pastor Mark's fasting video.](#))

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READING

All four of the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke & John—depict Jesus's suffering & death. Jesus is condemned by Pilate, beaten by soldiers, and crucified to His death. Let's walk with Jesus through His suffering...

FOR REFLECTION & DISCUSSION

JESUS IS BEATEN

Mark 15:16–20 *"The soldiers led Jesus away into Pilate's palace and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on Him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on Him. And they began to call out to him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' Again and again they struck Him on the head with a staff and spit on Him. Falling on their knees, they pretended to worship Him. 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."*

1. The soldiers seemed to revel in this opportunity to ridicule and abuse Jesus.

- What does this depiction of these Roman soldiers help us see about the human heart? About our own heart?
- What are ways Jesus might be mocked and scorned in our day? In what ways might we be critical and accusatory of Jesus?

2. The soldiers taunted Jesus about His claim to be a King (John 18:36-37).

- Why might the soldiers have been so eager to deride Jesus about His claim? Why did Jesus' claim seem so ridiculous to the soldiers?
- What are ways Jesus' claims might implicate our daily living? What are everyday examples of how we might submit to Jesus' authority?

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Mark 15:21–32 *"Simon of Cyrene was passing by and they forced him to carry the cross. They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha. Then they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. And they crucified Him. Dividing up His clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. It was the third hour when they crucified Him. The written notice of the charge against Him read: 'The King of the Jews.' They crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, 'So! You Who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, come down from the cross and save Yourself!' In the same way the religious leaders mocked Him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but He can't save Himself! Let this Christ, this King of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe.' Those crucified with Him also heaped insults on Him."*

3. The site of Jesus' crucifixion was the scene of many, many brutal and bloody Roman crucifixions.

- Describe the details of what you're envisioning as you read through this depiction of Jesus' crucifixion.
- Describe your own reactions, thoughts and feelings as you imagine Jesus' physical, emotional and spiritual suffering.

4. As you reflect on this crucifixion story, how might each detail, person, action and response speak to your heart?

- Simon of Cyrene? Golgotha? The wine mixed with myrrh? Dividing Jesus' clothing? The third hour? The charge against Him?
- The two robbers? The passersby? The religious leaders? The insults? The mocking? The claims? The ridicule?

THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

Mark 15:33–41 *"At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' When some of those standing near heard this, they said, 'Listen, He's calling Elijah.' One man ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. He said, 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take Him down.' With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard His cry and saw how He died, he said, 'Surely this Man was the Son of God!'"*

(over)

5. In this final scene, Jesus' life ends. As you continue your reflections, how do the details of Jesus' death speak to your heart?

- The darkness? Jesus feeling forsaken? The mentions of Elijah? Jesus breathing His last? The curtain tearing? The centurion's words?
- What do you imagine Jesus is thinking and feeling as He is dying? Describe what you imagine Jesus is suffering in His last moments.

6. As you contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus, consider the implications of Jesus death upon your life.

- How does Jesus' suffering demonstrate His love and care for us? How does His suffering impact your personal connection with Jesus?
- How does Jesus' suffering and death help you understand our sin and God's forgiveness? Describe your heart's response to Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for this opportunity to "brood" in Your cross. Thank You for this vivid depiction of Your love for us, and the price You paid for our forgiveness. Thank You for Your willingness to suffer on our behalf. Thank You for paying the ultimate price by laying down Your life for ours. Please increase our appreciation and gratitude for all You've done for us. May it yield deeper love, devotion and obedience to You, our Lord and Savior.