

DO THE HORRORS OF THE CROSS REALLY AFFECT YOU AT ALL TODAY?
Sermon Outline & Devotional Guide
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- † Philippians 2:8, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (NASB).
- † John 3:16, For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (NKJV).
- † John 19:1, “Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him” (NASB).

- The Romans had a nickname for scourging or flogging. They called it “_____ death.”

- † John 19:2-3, “And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; ³and they began to come up to Him and say, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ and to give Him slaps in the face” (NASB).
- † John 19:15-17, “So they cried out, ‘Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!’ Pilate *said to them, ‘Shall I crucify your King?’ The chief priests answered, ‘We have no king but Caesar. ¹⁶So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified. ¹⁷They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha” (NASB).
- † Matthew 27:31-32, ““After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him. ³²As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross” (NASB).

- This one mile path or way to crucifixion has been traditionally called the Via Dolorosa, which means the road or way of _____. If you had other carry the whole cross, it typically weighed around or over _____ pounds.
- The word translated as “pressed” is the Greek New Testament word [ἀγγαρεύω; angareuō] and it means “to be _____, to be _____ to do something.”

- † Matthew 5:41, “Jesus said, ‘Whoever forces you to go one mile, go with him two’” (NASB).
- † Mark 15:21, “They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross” (NASB).

- We know that the vertical piece of the cross was called the “_____.” It was permanently anchored at the site of execution. It was the cross beam, or “the _____,” that was actually carried, weighing nearly _____ pounds. The condemned man carried it on his shoulders, with his hands usually tied to the beam.

- † Matthew 27:33-34, “And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, ³⁴they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink’ (NASB).

- The Latin equivalent for Golgotha is calvaria, where we get our English word _____.
- To prolong the process they added a crude seat, called a _____, which allowed the condemned to live up to 4 to 5 days.
- It’s interesting that the word “excruciating” came from the Latin language which literally means, “out of the _____.”

- † Proverbs 31:6a, “Give strong drink to him who is perishing” (NASB).
- † Galatians 6:14a, “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NKJV).
- † John 19:21-20, “There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. ¹⁹Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.” ²⁰Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek” (NASB).
- † John 19:21-22, “So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, ‘Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’ ²²Pilate answered, ‘What I have written I have written’” (NASB).

- This was Pilate’s way of announcing Jesus’ true _____, not His _____.

- † John 19:23-24, “Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. ²⁴So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be”; this was to fulfill the Scripture: “They divided My outer garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots” (NASB).
- † Psalms 22:16b, 18, “They pierced My hands and My feet . . . ¹⁸They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots” (NASB).

- The word “priest” in Latin means _____.

What Is The Bridge That Christ Has Built Between God And Us?

1. It is a bridge that calls us to _____.

- † Matthew 27:46, “At about three o’clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ which means ‘My God, my God, why have you abandoned Me?’” (NLT).

2. It is a bridge that calls to _____.

- Jesus suffered _____ so that we would only have to suffer _____. He experienced _____ so that we could experience _____. He _____ Himself so that we could become _____ rich.

† Matthew 11:28, Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (NLT).

† Isaiah 53:3-5, “He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. ⁴Yet it was our weaknesses He carried; it was our sorrows that weighed Him down. And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for His own sins! ⁵But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed” (NLT).

3. It is a bridge that calls us to _____.

† John 19:30, “Jesus said, ‘It is finished!’” (NASB).

- “Finished” is the Greek word [Τετέλεσται, tetelestai]. And it was used in 3 ways in Jesus’ day:

- (a) It was used in a business or financial way to indicate that a literal _____ had been paid in full.
- (b) It was used in a judicial sense in courts when a person’s sentence had been served in _____.
- (c) It was used in a military way that a battle had been _____.

4. It is a bridge that calls us to _____.

† John 1:29, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (NASB).

† Romans 6:1-2, Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of His wonderful grace? ²Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?” (NLT).

Next Steps Devotional Guide

1. Take time to consider what it means for you personally to cross each of the four bridges above that call to you. How does Jesus call you to cross each of these four bridges?
2. Do the horrors of Jesus’ scourging/flogging and crucifixion ever impact your life? If so, how? If not, why? What does this tell you?
3. The “Law of Diminishing Returns” affects and impacts our lives in every area of our lives — not just spiritual. What other area of your life do you wish this was not true and why?
4. Do you ever feel abandoned by God and that He does not understand your pain? Why or why not?