



Lent/Holy Week: Jesus' Death | [Luke 23:26-56](#)

Michael Smith

Jesus' followers believed He was the promised Messiah; the one who was going to fix everything. But as He hung on the cross, they feared their faith in Him was misplaced. He promised salvation, but He appeared unable to even save Himself. Yet it was a condemned criminal, hanging next to Jesus, who was able to see the true spiritual reality of the situation. He alone, in that moment, saw who Jesus really was.

Live as One

Today we are surrounded by fear. The situation with COVID-19 is unprecedented. It's difficult to live in isolation without our community of close friends. Some days it seems like the END OF THE WORLD.

To the followers of Jesus, that day He hung on the cross also seemed like the end of the world. The man they believed to be their Messiah was dead and all their hopes were dying with Him. His death was a soul crushing disappointment for them.

Think through how you are walking through this time of fear:

What specifically causes the most fear and anxiety for you regarding COVID-19?

Are there past times of fear or anxiety that can serve as a guide for this current situation?

How is the current situation impacting your relationship with Jesus? Do you feel like He is to blame for all that is going wrong? Or is He your source of comfort in this anxious time?

Are you willing to stop and ask Him to help you see the true spiritual reality at a time like this?

Live by the Word

Read [Luke 23:26-56](#). Luke goes to great lengths to paint a picture of the suffering that Jesus endured during those fateful hours. Yet, even in His suffering He never stopped loving those around Him. He gave comforting words to the women who wept for Him. He begged for the forgiveness of those who betrayed and crucified Him. Even in His last breath, He promised paradise for the thief who saw Him for who He truly was.

Each day the news brings more reasons to fear the future. But as a follower of Jesus, fear is not our only option.

Has your relationship with Jesus in these uncertain times brought you comfort?

What comfort from Jesus can you share with those around you?

Like the thief, when we recognize Jesus for who He is, we are promised the eternal hope of His Kingdom. But the eternal life that Jesus offers isn't only life after death. In these turbulent times of fear and uncertainty, Jesus is our Savior and Rescuer who offers wholeness and true life even now IN THE MIDST of the chaos and fear.

Live as SENT

Read the prayer on page 67 of the Clarity Book. With much of our lives canceled, we have a unique opportunity to slow down and press into our relationship with Jesus.

What would it look like if we slowed down for more intimate time with Jesus?

What would it look like if we lived a life of thankfulness, even in the midst of the chaos?

How might slowing down for intimacy with Jesus in this time enable us to be a light to others; showing them that fear isn't the only way?

Spend time praying for opportunities to show the love of Jesus to others so that they may see the hope and security that He offers in these uncertain times.

Connect DAILY

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Sunday

[Luke 23:26-43](#)

Monday

[Luke 23:44-49;](#)
[Psalm 59:1-5; Proverbs 10:14-16](#)

Tuesday

[Luke 23:50-56;](#)
[Psalm 59:6-10; Proverbs 10:17-20](#)

Wednesday

[Matthew 27:32-61;](#)
[Psalm 59:11-17; Proverbs 10:21-24](#)

Thursday

[Mark 15:21-47;](#)
[Psalm 60; Proverbs 10:25-27](#)

Friday

[John 19:16-42;](#)
[Psalm 61; Proverbs 10:28-30](#)

Saturday

[Psalm 22:14-18;](#)
[Psalm 62; Proverbs 10:31-32](#)