

"herald the good news" Romans 10:15

THE HERALD

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HOW TO FACE YOUR GOLGOTHA

Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 23:39-46

Jesus was facing the greatest test of faith in His life. He did not look forward to the events that would culminate in His own funeral (such as it was). He knew exactly what was coming. Betrayal. Shame. Torture. Trauma. Thirst. Loneliness. Death. How could He look at that and not flinch? How do we handle the great challenges to our faith— our “Golgothas?” What happens when...

*The doctor says, “Three months, tops;”

*The dean says, “I’m sorry, but you can’t graduate till you take this course over;”

*The law intern hears, “I’m sorry, but you didn’t pass the bar and we can’t use you here;”

*The trooper reports, “You’ll have to wait till bail is set to get him out;”

*The funeral home phones, “When could we work out a time for you to view the body;”

*Your unwed daughter says, “It’s due in seven months;”

*Your boss says, “I’m sorry, but business has been off and we have to downsize somewhere;”

*Your wife says, “I just don’t love you anymore;”?

Where do we turn when there’s no where to turn? Where do we put our feet when the rug has been jerked out from under us? Jesus left an example for us the night He faced “Golgotha” (cf. I Peter 2:21-22).

JESUS SOUGHT...A PLACE WHERE HE COULD PRIVATELY ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. Jesus was in great demand. It seemed he could never shake the crowd (“for there were many coming and going,” Mark 6:31b). He never complained and always offered a hand to the helpless. Still, on this night He did not make time for publicans and sinners. The Great Physician’s office was closed. He stepped out of the limelight and addressed the deep concerns in His own heart. He got out of eyesight of the multitudes, out of earshot of His disciples, and got in touch with His Father. He went deep into the bowels of Gethsemane to gather His thoughts, wrestle with God’s purpose for His life, and to summon strength to face the inevitable.

What is the message for sufferers today? Take some time away from doctor’s

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

1. I MUST BELIEVE

“But without faith, it is impossible to please Him” (Hebrews 11:6)

2. I MUST REPENT

“Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3)

3. I MUST CONFESS

“And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37)

4. I MUST BE BAPTIZED

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16)

5. I MUST LIVE RIGHT

“We should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world” (Titus 2:12)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship at 10:30 am & 6:00 pm
Bible Class at 9:30 am

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class at 7:00 pm

ELDERS

Fred Barnett, Mark DeLong,
Rodney Newton, Ray Poston, Stephen Stilwell

DEACONS

Micah Busbey, Karl Dawson, Bob McIndoo,
Jeff Morris, Juan Nunez,
Mark Springer, Leland Steely, Tim Tapp

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offices, business meetings, and family gatherings. Find a place to sort things out in your own mind. Spend some time in separation, meditation and contemplation. Often, things do not look nearly as daunting after a good night's sleep as they did after a long day's turmoil. The first thing God told a depressed Elijah to do was to eat a good meal and get some sleep (1 Kgs. 19:5-8). We can usually handle things better if our minds and bodies are well rested. Jesus certainly emphasize rest-both spiritual (mental) and physical. He invited sinners to come to Him and rest (Matthew 11:28), instructed Peter, James and John to *"sleep on now, and take your rest"* (Matthew 26:45), and insisted that the harried band, *"come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while..."* (Mark 6:31a). Further, one day He promised that He will come back and grant us eternal rest (2 Thessalonians 1:7; Hebrews 3:11; Revelation 14:13).

Lesson #1: Facing Golgotha? Spend some time in Gethsemane.

THE COMPANY OF CLOSE FRIENDS. Jesus sought solitude, but He did not get too far from His friends. We may not fully understand all that was involved, but He took the Eleven with Him to the Garden. Though He prayed along, He kept coming back to see them...to be with them. He alternated between His Father and His friends. He wanted them to stay awake and pray with Him (at least at the same time). It is safe to say that even the Son of God wanted friends around when the night was really dark.

God did not create us to be "long rangers," either. Solomon instructed us to pay attention to friendships, for one day we will need them. (Proverbs 27:10). Good friends can make us *"sharper"* (Proverbs 22:17). It is not a wise man that keeps his problems all bottled up and never turns to anyone for counsel. (Proverbs 15:22). Our friends may be unable to offer the perfect solutions, or even to come up with suitable words of comfort. Jesus' friends let Him down that night (they could not stay awake). Still, just vocalizing what is on the mind is often a relief. An old adage says, "A joy shared is doubled, a burden shared is halved."

Lesson #2 Don't try to climb Golgotha by yourself.

COMFORT FROM THE FATHER IN PRAYER. In Gethsemane, Jesus prayed as no man had every prayed. He wrestled with severe mental anguish (Matt. 26:37-38). Mark says He was *"sore amazed"* (ekthambeo, "to astonish utterly, affright) and *"very heavy"* (adamoneo, "to be in distress of mind") (Mk. 14:33). If you had visited that spot at daybreak, you could have found a damp place where His sweat dripped during those prayers. He prayed until His capillaries burst into His sweat glands and He literally sweated blood (Lk.22:44-45)!

Prayer is not an option for non-Christians, but what a privilege for God's child! He can lift up his tear-stained face to heaven and say, "Father," and the God

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY (July 8)

Opening Prayer:	Jim Burke
Closing Prayer:	Ben Grogan
Devotional:	Neal Mathis
Song Leader:	Ray Poston

SUNDAY (July 12)

AT THE TABLE

*Larry Bundy	Rodney Newton
Jim Burke	Glenn Whitley
William Ray Jr.	Juan Nunez
Ben Grogan	*Karl Dawson

*Denotes those to serve communion Sunday night

AM Worship

Announcements:	Fred Barnett
Opening Prayer:	David Hust
Scripture Reading:	Alan Carter
Closing Prayer:	Barry Watwood
Ushers:	Terry Bonds Brad Carter

DOOR GREETERS

Stephen Stilwell
Marlene Stillwell
J.B. Slaughter

PM Worship

Opening Prayer:	Neal Mathis
Scripture Reading:	Sam Morris
Closing Prayer:	Bob McIndoo

FOR THE RECORD (June 28):

Sunday Morning Worship:	220
Sunday Morning Bible Study:	124
Sunday Evening Worship:	126
Wednesday Bible Study:	96
Contribution:	\$6187.00

of the universe turns His head and bends His ear to listen. Imagine! What a joy to know that *"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble"* (Psa. 46:1). He knows (Galatians 4:9) and He cares (1 Peter 5:7).

Lesson # 3: Don't try to climb Golgotha on your feet. Use your knees.

Allen Webster

NEWS AND NOTES

Prayer Request: Vera Sue Pleasant, Kathy Riggs, Tommy Jenkins, Debbie Newman, Carolyn Clevenger, Bob Harrell (St. Mary's), Carolyn Turpin, Jenny Revlett, Wayne Moore, Donald Stone, Sharon Bundy, David Crockett, Patricia DeLong, Arianna DeLong (upcoming surgery), Gene Thomason, John Kavanaugh, Joann Hayes,

Good News: This past Lord's Day Chris Gendek confessed his faith in Christ and was buried with him in baptism. We are rejoicing in his new birth.

V.B.S. Planning Meeting: Today at 5:15 in the basement for everyone who wants to help this year in any way. Dates July 26-29.

Sympathy: To Ruby Brantley and family in the death of her father, John Robert Jenkins. Also sympathy to the Thomason family in the death of their aunt Hazel.

Summer Youth Series: It will be held here this coming Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. We need more food. Expecting 250-300 people.