

Devotion 15: Go to Jesus to Learn of His Passion

Audience: For Patient and Caregiver

Theme: Go to Jesus and learn from Him!

Bible Passage: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light* (Matthew 11:28-30).

Devotion: When we go to Jesus and learn from Him one thing stands out above all others — God’s wondrous love. And that love is nowhere made known any more perfectly than in the gift of His Son, Jesus. We read: *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins* (1 John 4:9, 10).

Let’s look at this atoning sacrifice as we focus now on Christ’s holy passion — his suffering and death upon the cross. Crucifixion was the most inhuman method of execution devised by man . . . so much so that no Roman citizen could be crucified. This tortuous form of execution was reserved for the lowest of criminals.

Jesus had been crowned with thorns and brutally flogged before going to the cross. But in the words of the hymn *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted* “the deepest stroke that pierced Him was the stroke that Justice gave.” This was when He was separated from His heavenly Father for three long hours suffering the tortures of hell. The Bible tells us: *We all like sheep had gone astray, each of us had turned to his own way; and the Lord (God the Father) has laid on him the iniquity of us all* (Isaiah 53:6). God could not let our sins go unpunished, yet He did not want all of us to languish in hell for eternity. In His justice God the Father laid all the guilt of all the sins of all people of all time on His holy, innocent Son.

John sums up this wondrous truth when he tells us: *He (Jesus) is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world* (1 John 2:2).

We are also told: *I am convinced that neither death nor life . . . nor any powers . . . nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 8:38, 39). No one or no thing can rob us of God’s love, secured for us in Christ’s holy passion!

Dear Lord, remind us to go to your cross whenever we doubt your amazing grace. Amen.

Bible Readings: Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23, John 19.