

# JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

## **Prayer & Fasting Guide** **3rd April - 9th April '23**

For centuries, followers of Jesus have created ways to deepen their understanding of God's grace by remembering the events of the arrest, crucifixion and entombment of Jesus.

In the next 7 days we shall take time to reflect on the Biblical account of the "events" of Easter. Take time to "Journey with Jesus" to reflect on how deeply you are loved and to prepare your heart to celebrate the wonder and joy of the resurrection on Easter. We are "slowing down to be with Jesus". Whenever you are tempted to doubt God's love for you, take a long look at the cross on which He died, then realize that, for all practical purposes it was not nails that held Him to the cross, but love.

Many of us have heard this story before yet it's significance is often missed. This was not simply "a good teacher" being sacrificed for his beliefs; it was God in human form who hung on that cross, bridging the gap between sinful people and a holy God. On the cross, Jesus received the wages that were due to us. He was not heard that we might be heard. The ear of God was closed to Jesus for a time that it might never be closed to us. (Mathew 27:46- My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?) At this moment, many believe, God placed the sins of the world upon His Son.

**John 3:16 NIV- For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.**

*Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there; it spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life, it's a second chance.*  
(Unknown)

*Happy Blessed Easter Karura Community Family,  
from the Prayer Ministry!*

# DAY 1

## Monday, 3rd April

**Scripture Readings: Acts 15:1-35, Acts 10:23b-48**

*(Romans 3:22-24NLT) We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.*

Throughout Acts, God reminds Christians that the gospel is for everyone and that salvation only comes through faith in Jesus. Nothing we try is good enough because it's less than perfect. Jesus did everything needed for our salvation through His perfect life, His substitutionary death, and His resurrection. Our salvation is complete in Jesus. The Jerusalem Council answered one of the most important questions of our faith: How is a person saved? Through today's story, we remember that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus. Nothing or no one else is needed.

### Prayer points:

- Pray that in this season God will remind us that our salvation is complete in Jesus. It is by faith not by our works. (Ephesians 2:8-10)
- Pray that we may remember how much God loves and cares for us and how His love leads us to repentance and obedience (Ephesians 3:18-19, Luke 5:31-32)
- Pray for soft/ repentant hearts for yourself, your family, for the church and the nation in this season that we may repent and turn back to God as we remember His sacrifice. (Ezekiel 36:24-28)
- Pray that we may become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's promptings, to His voice and that we may know Him more, that our relationship with God will grow (John 10:27-28) 🙏

# DAY 2

## Tuesday, April 4th

### Scripture Readings: 1st Thessalonians 1:1-10, Psalms 46

**John 14:2-3 NIV - *My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.***

Paul told the church to stand firm as they wait for Jesus' return. Paul encouraged the believers in Thessalonica to focus on Jesus' return and encourage each other with this truth when they face struggles in their faith. Christians will often face hard times (John 16:33), but with God, we can have hope and help in these trials because we know that one day Jesus will come again and while we are here on earth we know that He is always with us working everything for the good of those who are in Him. (Romans 8:28)

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for those who are discouraged, facing hardships be it sickness, finances, depression, that their hope is renewed in this season as we celebrate Easter. (Isaiah 40:31, Hebrews 6:19)
- Pray that God will send people our way to encourage us and that we ourselves will encourage others with the truth of the word to stand firm in the face of trials/struggles (Hebrews 10:24-25)
- Pray that God will give each one of us a new song. That our minds will be renewed and any guilt or condemnation from the devil will be wiped away. (Psalms 40:3, Romans 8:1)
- Pray that God will free us from trying to please/serve people but remind us that all things we do are for His glory only (Galatians 1:10, 1Corinthians 10:31)



# DAY 3

## Wednesday, April 5th

**Scripture Readings: Ephesians 2, 1st Timothy 2:1-4, Psalms 133:1-3**

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14 NIV - *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.***)

Many things can cause separation among believers. Each person has different likes, dislikes, and opinions. Jesus is the One who unites all believers. When believers have a unified purpose of sharing the gospel and honoring the Lord, these differences should no longer cause separation. Through God's gift of salvation, forgiven sinners can come together as the church.

We are never to look down on unbelievers or think of ourselves better than others, but we should show the love that Jesus showed us in the hope of leading them to Jesus. Before Christ, we were all dead in our sin, lost and without hope.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray for unity among believers and the church. Our differences so often divide us and we are reminded that it is our differences that form different parts that should work together in unity for the sake of the gospel. (John 17:21, Ephesians 4:13)
- Pray for unity in Kenya, in our leadership, among different tribes that we all may live peacefully and with a common purpose, serving God and building the nation.
- Pray for those who are not believers in your family, church that they will come to know the Lord. Pray that we may know how to show them love (1 John 4:11)







- Pray for boldness to teach the true gospel and the courage to reach out to the lost and those who may have waived in the faith or have grown weary. (Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 9:22) 🙏

# DAY 4

## Thursday, April 6th

**Scripture readings: Exodus 12, Mathew 26:17-29**

***1 Corinthians 5:6-8 - Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

In Exodus, the Bible tells us that God helped the Israelites escape slavery in Egypt by inflicting ten plagues upon the Egyptians before the Pharaoh would release them. The tenth and worst of the plagues was the death of all the first-born children in Egypt. The Israelites were told to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a spring lamb and, upon seeing this, the Lord knew to pass over the first-borns in these homes. The Passover was a special time each year that helped the Jews remember how God helped them escape slavery in Egypt, and how the blood of a spotless lamb saved them from death. We remember Jesus – by whose stripes we are healed. Yeast leavens, or puffs up, as pride and sin “puffs up” ourselves so we think that we are more important than we are. We break bread to remember that Jesus was broken for us, His voluntary sacrifice of Jesus, God's own gift of a perfect lamb, for our sins, that the punishment may “Passover” us. We have hope. Because of the blood shed by the thorns piercing Jesus' brow and because of the blood from the wounds of the nails, we, in faith, mark on the door of our hearts. We celebrate Passover today to remember how God saved the Jews from slavery in Egypt, and how He has saved us from the bondage of sin and death through Jesus' blood.





## Prayer Points:

- Pray that we may understand the power of His name, His blood and His work on the cross and that we may respond accordingly to His sacrifice. Pray for Godly sorrow that leads to repentance (2nd Corinthians 7:10, Isaiah 53:5-6)
- Pray that we all may be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)
- Pray that God will release His people from bondages/ addictions/ strongholds that have tormented the people of God and help us to remember that He who the son sets free is free indeed. (John 8:36, Revelation 1:5)
- Pray about the social issues in the church and the country e.g. malicious talk, pride, hatred, LGBTQ, tribalism etc. that the people of God, the church will take a godly stand and give direction that honors God, and lead others not by word but action. (Titus 3:2-6)
- Pray that God will remember His people, His church and nation as we humble ourselves and turn to Him. Pray for rain and the hunger situation in Kenya and Africa. (2nd Chronicles 7:13-14) 🙏

# DAY 5

## Friday, 7th April (Good Friday)

**Scripture Readings: Mathew 27:32-56, Psalms 22**

**Hebrews 9:22 - *In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.***

Today we remember, because of His blood we have new life in Christ. (Romans 6:4) Because of His crucifixion, we have been passed over by the shedding of his blood! The necessity of the His death on the cross shows just how radical our situation was as fallen people. For that reason, we can't blame the Roman soldiers for putting Him on the cross that day, we are just as guilty as they were. It was our sins that made it necessary for Jesus to volunteer for His humiliating death. Jesus was truly God and truly man, part of His human life involved the experience of death. In the Old Testament, people of faith followed the instructions from God by offering sacrifices to Him to make up for their sins. The perfect lamb that the Prophets talked about was yet to come and He would give Himself on the cross to make everything right between us and God the Father. Because Jesus came to earth as a man, He experienced everything we do, including pain. Even though it probably didn't seem fair that Jesus went through this, He did it for an amazing reason; that we can be "reconciled" (have peace) with God the Father.

### Prayer Points:

- Thank God for His sacrifice and the work He did at the cross that we may have new and abundant life (John 10:10)
- Thank God for His love and mercy, His blessings upon your life.







- Pray for strength to follow Him and His example (Luke 9:23)
- Ask God to help us build a world based on His love and justice
- Pray for christians who are persecuted around the world for following Him. (2nd Timothy 3:11-12) 🙏

# DAY 6

## Saturday, 8th April (Holy Saturday)

**Scripture Readings: Isaiah 53, John 1:43-50**

**Isaiah 53:9 KJV - *“And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.***

Today as we reflect on the love and sacrifice of Jesus, let us reflect on this devotion:

Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” The surprising answer is “yes.” God chose to have His Son, the Savior of the world, live in Nazareth. “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things and the things that are not to nullify the things that are” (1 Corinthians 1:27–28). We see this often in Scripture: Joseph, Ruth, Gideon, and David all began in lowly, despised places, but God chose them and used them in great ways.

Jesus was foolish and weak and lowly and despised in the estimation of this world (cf. John 19:1–5), and to top it off, He was from Nazareth. Jesus is the ultimate example of God utilizing the weak (according to human standards) to shame the wise (also according to human standards) for the purpose of glorifying Himself.

Nathanael begins his time with Jesus with a gently derisive question: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” But his tone soon changes. After an opportunity to speak with Jesus, Nathanael proclaims, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel” (John 1:49). (Devotion from Free Chapel)





## Prayer Points:

Let us pray that we may never think of ourselves better than anyone else because of our status, background, education etc. but remember God will use anyone who is available and is submitted to Him. (2nd Timothy 2:14-20, 1st Samuel 16:7, Romans 9:9-13, Mathew 22:14)

- Let us pray that we shall serve Him in humility. (James 4:10)
- Let us pray that God will use us to fulfil His purposes here on earth as we turn our hearts to Him during this season and beyond, that our lives from here on shall be a true reflection of Christ. (Ephesians 5:1-5)
- Pray that we shall grow in Christ, individually, as a church and as a nation and never to look back because what He did for us, no man can do and in Him we have the strength to overcome whatever we face as He already overcame the world. (1st Corinthians 10:12) 🙏

# DAY 7

## Sunday 9th April (Easter Sunday)

**Scripture Readings: Isaiah 52:13-15, Romans 8:9-14, Acts 2:24, 1Corinthians 15:20**

*Mathew 28:6 KJV - He is not here: for HE IS RISEN, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.*

*2nd Corinthians 5:17 NLT - This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

Celebrate that He is risen, the devil is defeated and now we have hope and life eternal!

*Hallelujah! Jesus is Alive!  
Death has lost its victory!  
And the grave has been denied  
Jesus lives forever!  
He's alive! He's alive!*

*He's the Alpha and Omega!  
The first and last is He  
The curse of sin is broken!  
And we have perfect liberty!  
The Lamb of God has risen  
He's alive! He's alive!  
Hallelujah Jesus is alive!*

*(Song by Ron Kenoly)*

### Prayer Points:

- Pray that we may all respond to this great sacrifice by:
- Turning from our sins
- Believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and accepting Him in our hearts
- Rededicating our lives to Jesus Christ and living in love and obedience to Him.







**1 John 3:16 NIV - This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.**

*If we understand the gospel - that we were so lost that it took the death of the LORD of the universe to save us - Then we can't look at anyone and say anything other than "I'm no better than you". The gospel gives us the power to resist the superiority complex. (Timothy Keller)*

**Titus -2:11-15 - For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people.<sup>12</sup>It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,<sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,<sup>14</sup>who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. <sup>15</sup>These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.**

*"We proclaim the resurrection of Christ when His light illuminates the dark moments of our existence."  
(Pope Francis) 🙏*



Be  
Blessed!

THE KARURA COMMUNITY CHAPEL

PRAYER MINISTRY

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