

Editorial Thought...

Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone...

"When they finally tired of their sport, they ... led Him away to be crucified. Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country just then, was pressed into service to carry Jesus' cross." - Mark 15:20-21 (TLB) -



Daniel Seay

We can read in Mark's Gospel about the pain and agony that our Lord endured for us during the time in which He suffered for the sins of humanity. Often, we read this account and our hearts are stirred to think of all He did for us. Yet, too often we read these words and fail to catch the small details that make this story come alive. One of those small details presents itself here.

In verse 21, we read of a man named Simon the Cyrenian. He is mentioned here and in Matthew and Luke's account. He appears on the pages of our Bible out of nowhere and just as quickly, he is gone again. However, while we take notice, he teaches us a valuable lesson about the love of God and about a man's love for the Savior. This man did for our Savior what even His closest disciples were unable to do. That is, he eased our Lord's suffering during one of the darkest hours of His earthly ministry. You see, it was Simon Peter who had said, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both into prison, and to death" (Luke 22:33). Yet, when the time came to follow Jesus unto death, Peter, like the rest of the disciples, forsook Him and fled (Mark 14:50).

We must ask ourselves this question: *Must Jesus Bear His Cross Alone?* I wonder if we are willing to bear the cross for our Savior as Simon did. Let's examine this story in its details.

1. **Simon's Situation:** We do not know much about Simon. All we know is that he was from Cyrene, which was located in Africa. We know that he was in Jerusalem at the time of the Passover, so it's logical that he may have been a Jewish proselyte. If this were true, he was probably traveling with his family to Jerusalem to worship. He now comes face to face with Jesus!

2. **Simon's Selection:** The Word of God says that they "compelled" Simon to carry the Lord's Cross. The word compelled means to "press into public service". Roman soldiers could enlist civilians to do certain tasks. People were required by Roman law to obey, or they could be killed.

3. **Simon's Shame:** Cyrene was a city on the northern coast of Africa. Perhaps one of the reasons the soldiers pressed Simon into this service was the color of his skin. It was considered the most degrading act imaginable to carry the cross of a condemned man. No soldier would want to do that and the soldiers probably would not have chosen anyone who was obviously Jewish to do so on the eve of the Passover. To have carried this cross would have branded that person as ceremonially unclean. From the moment Simon touched the cross, he was a marked man!

So we come to the essential question, again: *Must Jesus bear the cross alone – all over again?* Or will you feel the call to *stand up, step out and stand in* for Him where you are needed in His *cross-bearing* ministry? Will you allow yourself to be pressed into service to help carry the cross of Christ? Even if it brings hardship, shame or other negative consequences, will you stand and be counted for Jesus? It's something we each need to think and pray about each and every day.

News And Notes

Our Prayer List

Rob Harris, Susie Moore, Chris Folster, Gwen Gann, LouAnn Gann, Josh Werner, Billye Werner, June Brant, Donna Spader, Rozalyn Boggs, Alice Jones, Diana Nordin, Jeannette Pope, Betsy Pippin, Our Elected Officials and all World Leaders.

"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."
[James 5:16b]

Statistics

For The Week Of July 24th, 2016

Sun3ay Class	15
Sunday AM	24
Sunday PM	10
Wednesday PM	7
Contribution	\$776.00
YTD Budget (30 x \$735)	\$22,050.00
Difference Year-To-Date	-\$1431.00
Savings Account Balance	\$2,281.01

2nd Corinthians 9:12 – 'Your generosity is doing great things

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays: Wesley Beard (1), Richard Hoose (12)

Anniversary: -nonw

COMING EVENTS

CHANGE: Planning Day - AUGUST 7th

- Be A Part Of Next Year's Plans -
- Hope Harbor Requests Money Help
- Cash Donations Can Be Given To Rob -
- Carpenter Place Grocery Pickup
- Around 3rd Thursday in September -

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray fervently for **Rob Harris, Jozie & Christina Thompson, CJ Watkins, Jimmy Golden, Charlene Edgett, Jewell Gilliland, Sharon Miller** (neighbor of Peggy), **Scott Law** (relative of Billie Werner – cancer concerns) and **Jackie Peters** (friend of the Gann's).

ICE CREAM SUPPER

THIS AFTERNOON @ 5PM
- LET'S ALL SHARE TOGETHER -
BRING ICE CREAM OR COOKIES

Agenda For Sunday, July 31st, 2016

Theme:

STAND UP FOR GOD

Today's Topic:

"Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone"

AM Class: AD – Film Series Study

Teacher: Chase Harris / In The Blue Room

10:30 am: **Costly Grace**

Text: Mark 15 / Matthew 16:24 / 1st Corinthians 1:17-31

5 pm: - **Ice Cream Supper & Devo**

- Let's All Fellowship Together -

Wed. 7pm: **Class Study "BELIEVE"**

Wade McCallie, Teaching

Special Prayer Requests

Pray Special And Specific Intercessory Prayers For:

June Brant	Gwen Gann
Rob Harris	Alice Jones
Diana Nordin	Allen Sullivan
Billye Werner	Tim & Chandra Stebbins
Jackie Peters	Cynthia Bradley
Chris Folster	Paul & Kathy Apprill
Roy Bays	Charlene Edgett
Willie Whitaker	Jozie Thompson
C J Watkins	Scott Law
Sharon Miller	Jimmy Golden

PLANNING DAY CHANGED TO AUGUST 7TH

Our 13th Annual Planning Day has been changed to next Sunday during the class and worship hours. This is an important church family event and your input is needed. Plans will be made for the Sept-Aug 2016-17 year. A Fellowship Lunch Will Follow at The Big Cheese. Donations will be accepted toward payment of the pizzas and drinks. Plan to attend each part of our day together.

MATTHEW 16:24

Jesus said to the disciples, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."