

# ON THE CROSS

*"Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed."*

Isaiah 53: 4-5

**On Good Friday the world was turned upside down. Five short days before Jesus was crucified, He had entered Jerusalem triumphantly with the crowds cheering and waving palms and laying their coats on the ground. The people of Israel thought their Messiah had come to rescue them from Rome, but He had come to rescue them from themselves.**

**Before the cross, Jesus, experienced betrayal by one of His very own. Our Savior who does not want anyone to perish was despised and rejected by all. The One who could only speak truth into our hearts had lies and false testimony spoken about Him. He was bound so that we could be set free. The Word of God that became flesh remained silent in front of His accusers. He was slavishly beaten so that, by His wounds, we are healed.**

**On the cross, Christ was stripped of His clothing so that we could be clothed in His righteousness. Our Good Shepherd humbled Himself to become the perfect sacrificial lamb led to slaughter. He who knew no sin was numbered with**



**transgressors. Jesus, who spoke of Himself as the Living Waters to the women at the well, became thirsty on the cross. The One who had always been in communion and fellowship with our Heavenly Father was forsaken by God.**

**After the cross, the Light of the World lay in darkness in the tomb.**

**If the story ended here, with the stone rolled across the entrance to the tomb and Jesus's body forevermore in the grave, we would never have known the name Jesus Christ, the power of His resurrection, or hope eternal. But His darkest hour was His finest hour. There was much grief, weeping, and confusion in the death and burial of Jesus. We pause on Good Friday to remember that He went before us to experience everything that we could ever face. We pause on Good Friday to remember that He died on that cross to save us from our sins and to bring us into full, abundant life by His mercy and grace. We pause on Good Friday to bring Him all our sorrows and grief because He understands and He cares for us lovingly, lavishly, and longingly.**

**His sacrifice allows us to have communion and fellowship with God. Our sacrifice is to accept this lavish gift, to die to self, to have our sins buried by Him, and to be raised up into life eternal, full and abundant. Not to just look forward to in heaven, but daily as we walk with Him. On this day we stop and remember what He has done for each one of us and give Him all the glory and honor due to Him.**

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