

Journey to the Cross

A 36-Day Reading Plan — March 1 through Easter Sunday, April 5, 2025

Walk the road with Jesus — one passage, one reflection, five minutes a day.

Date	Reading	Focus & Reflection
Week 1: The Call — Who Is Jesus?		
March 1	Mark 8:27-33 <i>"Who Do You Say I Am?"</i>	Jesus asks the question that changes everything. Before the journey begins, we must answer it for ourselves.
March 2	John 1:1-14 <i>"The Word Became Flesh"</i>	The Son of God steps into our world. The journey to the cross begins before Bethlehem.
March 3	Isaiah 53:1-6 <i>"The Suffering Servant Foretold"</i>	Seven hundred years before the cross, the prophet Isaiah describes it in detail.
March 4	Mark 8:34-38 <i>"Before You Take a Step"</i>	Deny yourself. Lay it down. Walk into the unknown. Own the journey. The terms are clear.
March 5	Luke 9:51 <i>"He Set His Face"</i>	One verse. One decision. Jesus resolutely sets out for Jerusalem. No turning back.
March 6	Psalms 22:1-11 <i>"My God, My God"</i>	David writes words that will one day be spoken from the lips of his descendant from the cross.
March 7	Hebrews 12:1-3 <i>"Fix Your Eyes"</i>	For the joy set before Him, He endured. What is the joy that sustains you on this journey?
Week 2: The Cost — What Does It Mean to Follow?		
March 8	Luke 14:25-33 <i>"Count the Cost"</i>	Jesus speaks plainly again to the crowds. Following Him is not casual. Count the cost before you commit.
March 9	John 12:1-8 <i>"Extravagant Devotion"</i>	Mary pours out everything she has at His feet. What does costly devotion look like in your life?
March 10	Matthew 19:16-26 <i>"The Rich Young Ruler"</i>	He had everything and walked away sad. What is the thing you cannot put down?
March 11	Luke 22:1-6 <i>"Betrayal Takes Shape"</i>	While some give everything, Judas begins negotiating a price. The contrast is sobering.

March 12	Galatians 2:19-21 <i>"Crucified With Christ"</i>	Paul's testimony from the other side of surrender. This is what laying it down produces.
March 13	Romans 12:1-2 <i>"A Living Sacrifice"</i>	Not a one-time act but a daily offering. Present yourself. Be transformed. This is worship.
March 14	Philippians 3:7-11 <i>"Gaining Christ"</i>	Paul counts everything he once valued as loss. What would you add to his list?

Week 3: The Road — Moving Toward Jerusalem

March 15	Luke 19:1-10 <i>"Zacchaeus"</i>	Jesus passes through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem. One encounter changes a life forever.
March 16	John 11:1-7, 17-27 <i>"I Am the Resurrection"</i>	Jesus raises Lazarus — and the religious leaders begin plotting in earnest. The cross draws closer.
March 17	Matthew 20:17-19 <i>"He Tells Them Again"</i>	For the third time Jesus tells His disciples plainly what is coming. They still don't understand.
March 18	Mark 10:35-45 <i>"Who Is the Greatest?"</i>	On the road to the cross, the disciples argue about position. Jesus redefines greatness entirely.
March 19	Mark 10:46-52 <i>"Blind Bartimaeus"</i>	A blind man sees Jesus more clearly than anyone. He receives his sight and follows on the road.
March 20	Psalms 118:19-29 <i>"Blessed Is He Who Comes"</i>	The psalm the crowds will shout on Palm Sunday. Read it knowing what comes next.
March 21	John 12:20-33 <i>"Unless a Grain of Wheat Falls"</i>	Greeks want to see Jesus. He speaks of His death as a seed falling into the ground.

Week 4: Holy Week Begins — Triumph to the Table

March 22	Matthew 21:1-11 <i>"The Triumphal Entry"</i>	Palm Sunday. The crowd roars. The King arrives — not as they expected, but exactly as promised.
March 23	Matthew 21:12-17 <i>"Cleansing the Temple"</i>	The day after Palm Sunday. Jesus turns over the tables. Passion is not always quiet.

March 24	Matthew 22:34-40 <i>"The Greatest Commandment"</i>	In the middle of the conflict and controversy, Jesus distills everything into two commands.
March 25	John 13:1-17 <i>"He Washed Their Feet"</i>	The night before the cross. The King becomes the servant. He shows us the full extent of His love.
March 26	John 14:1-6 <i>"I Am the Way"</i>	In the upper room Jesus comforts them. Do not let your hearts be troubled. He is the way.
March 27	John 15:12-17 <i>"Greater Love"</i>	The last night. His final command: love one another as I have loved you. This is why He goes.
March 28	John 17:1-5, 20-26 <i>"He Prays for Us"</i>	Jesus prays in the upper room — for His disciples and for all who will believe through their word. He prays for us.
Week 5: The Garden to the Cross		
March 29	Matthew 26:36-46 <i>"Gethsemane"</i>	Not my will but yours. The surrender that makes the cross possible happens here in the dark.
March 30	Matthew 26:47-56 <i>"The Arrest"</i>	Judas. A kiss. Darkness and torches. The disciples scatter. The Shepherd is taken.
March 31	Matthew 26:57-75 <i>"Peter's Denial"</i>	He swore he would never deny Him. By morning he had done it three times. There is grace even here.
April 1	Matthew 27:11-26 <i>"Pilate's Question"</i>	What shall I do with Jesus? Pilate asks the question every person must answer for themselves.
April 2	Matthew 27:27-44 <i>"The Crucifixion"</i>	Read slowly. Don't rush through this. Let the weight of what He endured settle over you.
April 3	Luke 23:39-46 <i>"It Is Finished"</i>	Two thieves. One cry. Father, into your hands. The veil tears. The journey reaches its destination.
Week 6: Saturday Silence & Easter Morning		
April 4	Matthew 27:57-66 <i>"The Sealed Tomb"</i>	Sit in the silence of Saturday. The stone is rolled. The guards are posted. All hope seems buried.
April 5 Easter Sunday	John 20:1-18 <i>"He Is Risen"</i>	Mary comes to the tomb weeping and leaves running. This is why we walked the road. He is alive.

