

Step By 14 Stations of the Cross of Jesus - *Bishop Joseph Nguyen Duy Thong*



1. Jesus is condemned to death.

The Passover Trial of the year was held in an unusually lively atmosphere with a background of Justice have to decline: -The Pursuers were the irresponsible mobs, under the leadership of the Chief Priests, screaming with their bloody mouths and hands in brandishing, demanding the death penalty. -The Defendant was Jesus alone standing in silence, there were many miserable people who had been freed under His powerful hands on the former days, now suffering under the bolt of the earthly laws.-The judge was a pagan; his work was not helping or serving anybody besides himself.

*-The charges were slander and falsely accused and fabricated evidence coming from the loud and strong voices of the Chief Priests and the mobs. Because of their arrogance, people have condemned God, have denied the presence of the **Truth**, to follow the misled and reject **Love**, to plunge into the darkness of hatred of the dead.*

Oh Lord, our early ancestors, because of their arrogance, have been excluded from the happiness of Eden, and today in our turn, we do the same, to let God out of our lives. Please God, let us be sincere repentance, and find our human nature in the Passion of Christ.



2. Jesus carries His Cross.

According to the law of Rome, criminals were sentenced to death must self carry the Cross to the place where their sentences lies. Without exception, Jesus had taken the Cross and walked in slowly as He detected each step under the eyes of His accusers. As seen from the legal perspective, the Cross is considered a heretical innovation and cruel of Rome's judiciary death for criminals. When Court ordered, criminals must carry the burden that they have caused as they come to die, as a type of public compensation.

But seen from the perspective of redemption, the cross is an initiative of love and cannot understand what God intended for man, when He let Jesus take the faults of humans stacked over the years on the shoulder of redemption.

Oh God, the separation is always the most sentimental time to share with each other the dearly love, but when at the Lord's departure, our human beings threw into God hatred and unjust. For the old days, the cross is the human burden for the Lord, but today, the cross is a gift of God for those who love and follow Him. Let us understand the meaning of the cross, and have courage to follow the Lord every day of our life..

*English tranlation by
Rev. Mr. Jerry Dao*



3. Jesus falls for the first time.

"Woe to thee, Jerusalem, because you will not know the hour of God visited thee!" Jerusalem is the holy ceremony city for God, but Jerusalem is also the city that has witnessed the scene of mourning and betrayal. The day that the Lord entered Jerusalem and sat on the back of a donkey, people were holding and waving leaves and cheering: "**Long live the Son of the King David**"; but on the day that the Lord went out of Jerusalem, His back was buckling under the heavy cross, with the crowds brandishing hands with insults: "Take away, take away, nailing Him to the cross!".

Jerusalem betrayed, and it was stupefied. Love suddenly turns hateful; people's thoughts and hearts had been changed so fast! God was sorrowful and He fell to the ground for the first time: falling down because of the infidelity of the people.

O Lord, many times in our lives, we just find peace and rest, and just like to stop in glory that becomes stable, and then deliberately evade sacrifice or forget the meaning of the denial from the easygoing, by easy also means good. Lord entered Jerusalem in glory on Palm Sunday, but did not stay there to be King, but went out to be suffered until to be collapsed. Let each one of us when contemplating the mystery of the cross, know how to sacrifice and live in the spirit of abandon every day.



4. Blessed Mother meets Jesus.

There were no major important events in the life of Jesus leaving Mary's absence, from the time of the most joyful Christmas Eve to the minutes of the most dreary of His afternoon death. The Mother was silently present. Mother stood and witnessed in silence. Acknowledging and thinking. Communion and surrender. The overall feeling was mixed with joy of redemption of Her Son.

*Mother looked upon the Lord without saying a word; the Lord look upon His Mother and didn't say a sentence. But in His eyes quietly sent at that moment, seemingly having substance containing a mystery message. It was at the "Fiat" of the Mother in the event of **Annunciation** meet the words "Let Thy will be fulfilled," of Jesus dying in the Garden of Olives. Therefore, it is the message vividly bloodletting and a reality to the point where there were no more words to say.*

Oh, Mother of Mary, along with you on the way of the cross, we want to see Jesus, but we know our eyes and hearts haven't really found peace, thus, many times we were only seeing in that "man on the way of his suffers" rather than recognizing **God as "the only Savior"**. Mother, please help us to keep our mind and heart quiet, so that in every day of our lives, we meet Jesus, the Savior in our life.



5. Simon helps Jesus carry the cross.

With a heavy cross on His shoulder, the Lord became weak overall on the way of His suffering. At that time, there was a man who was coming home from work. His name was Simon of Cyrene. Didn't know what his name with natural Jewish language meant; just knew that from the moment of meeting Jesus on that day of the Lord's Passion, his name is also synonymous with compassion, perhaps sympathy, loving people, and the altruistic mind... And since he accepted bearing the cross for Jesus on the way of His Death, his way back home was no longer with bitterness. It has become the route to the top of the Heavenly Mountain that salvation opens to everyone.

*It's pathetic! When the Lord was preaching in public, many people had listened to the **Truth** and received **God's Grace**. But when they met Jesus, who became a **Sufferer**, how many of them helped Jesus? Love is not only known to be received. On the contrary, love requires it to be given to others, as Simon had sympathy and had given to God precious resting minutes after a long work of exhaustion.*

Oh God! You have loved us by sacrificing your life. Grant us the sensitive hearts in order to know ahead the needs of the neighborhood, and the more generous hands before that misery of others.



6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.

Among those who were present in the early years of the Passion of the Lord, we distinguished three types of people: the first of those who were more close to Jesus who were the irresponsible mobs or the curious; the second of those who followed Jesus far away were intimidated by Jesus as several Apostles and women by helping Him from Galilee; and the third of those were some people of goodwill present scattered here and there on every station of cross. According to the tradition, Veronica was among these people of goodwill.

The Gospel did not mention her name and absolutely did not take a lead heavily on femininity as she handed out towels to wipe the face of Jesus. However, it is traditionally kept on the way of the cross, Veronica was to represent those who do not know the Lord, but feel affection and hope transcend melancholy for someone when drying the drops of sweat blood spills. Loving people will see the Lord.

Oh God! Everyone of us knows the most important command is love, but every day we still look at the suffering of our neighbors with indifferent eyes, and feel our neighbor's pain by the cold hearts. May God forgive us, and let us to seek God through the love and friendship of others.



7. Jesus falls the second time.

If the infidelities of the people have made the Lord kneel down, then the cold behavior by the Apostles that made Jesus fall to the ground with exhaustion. Indeed, during the three years of public life, Jesus was staying friendly with the **Twelve**, but when Jesus was handed, they were all frightened and ran away. Judas intended to sell Jesus with for only thirty bucks. "It'd rather not to born him!" While Peter's faith was strong, so that he uttered some strong oaths, but he has denied Jesus heartless in third times. "The spirit is fast action, but the flesh is weak". And John, "the disciple whom God loves" then watches and just follows God far away. And the rest of other Apostles have gone into darkness to hide because they have been feared to be involved with them to the authorities.

That's it! Completely fails. The intimate group has left the Lord alone. That's it! Empty handed with desperation. The God Father in the far also leaves Him alone as usual, the Twelve thought that they were close to Him, but they have had left Him and ran away. It seemed the cross was unbalanced, Christ fell to the ground a second time: His fall for the Apostles to have a chance to rise.

Oh God! As Catholics, we are happy to know God, but sometimes we are the main betrayers that make the Lord even sadder than ever. Please let us have a strong decision to rise after each fall away from God.

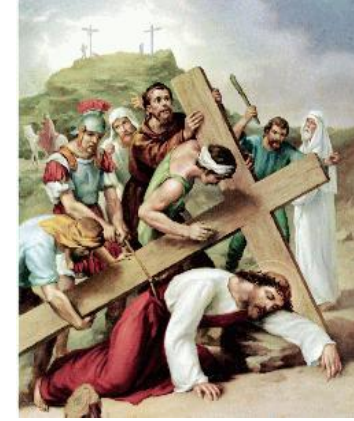


8. Jesus speaks to comfort the women.

Before coming to Calvary, in a narrow street corner, some women of Jerusalem wept and waited for God to go through. It's funny! When the Lord was still teaching and preaching in His public ministry, people would find ways to assassinate the Lord, by giving false statements, which is asking the distorted and trapped questions, which is sentenced to rejection; but when the Lord is as kind as "gentle sheep" was really given to people to take to kill, then they suddenly awakened from their dream. Killing the Lord is a big loss by mistakes, and by seeing the loss with grieving and weeping.

That cry in the outside part was the sense of passion Christ who had suffered, as loving the innocent people who were unjust, as loving the politician was taken to execute; but in the inner part of the deepest heart, that cry was sobbed and painfully regret lucky favor source fitted was just lost. So, the mourning suddenly became word wept. The tears of mourning Christ who was suffering burst into tears weeping for their errors.

Oh God, contemplating the cross today, please let us know the numbness and sorrow, may our hearts cry for the days straying away from God and saying words of sorrow for mistakes of the past, then we rediscover God in tears of repentance.



9. Jesus falls a third time.

If guilt is denied the love of God, sin is offensive to the Lord's love. By him who is the love loves mankind until the end and gave away all and did not keep anything; therefore, people once refused the love of God, not only did they obstruct the Salvation promoted in himself, but also hindered development of salvation for others.

The cross becomes heavy because of human sins contained and stored from centuries to centuries. "Don't know when Jesus comes to see that human faith still remains on Earth?" Lord shivers his suffering and he falls down to the ground for a third time: falling for the sinners who need his forgiveness.

My God, the way of the cross that God has already walked through in the early years, caused physical pain and melancholy spirits. The footsteps of God stretches by sacrifice and humiliation. God's arms tight with forgiveness and tolerance. God's eyes upturn in obedience. And the heart of God beats in love and mercy. May God give us every time we collapsed because of suffering, as frail, by looking up at the cross and rising in faith of God's love forever and ever.



10. The soldiers stripped Jesus.

Costumes are used to cover the body in personal life and at the same time it is also a form to make up one's social life. Costumes do not make up the personality, but it also somewhat reveals the personality. Costumes cannot assimilate with the human life as "the shirt does not make the monk", but costumes also come up with some dignity. When Jesus was stripped off his clothes, then this is meant he has volunteered to give up all his inherent dignity, yes, to only take the naked body parts in human misery of sins that Adam would have left a day after eating the forbidden fruit of Eden.

"Christ Jesus who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on the cross (Pl 2, 6-8).

Lord, you have given up your glory to bear in a form of human weakness. Let us right now know how to live with the mystery of Passover, which is meant we also have given up ourselves, bear our crosses to follow our Lord and hope to participate in the glory of God in the near future.

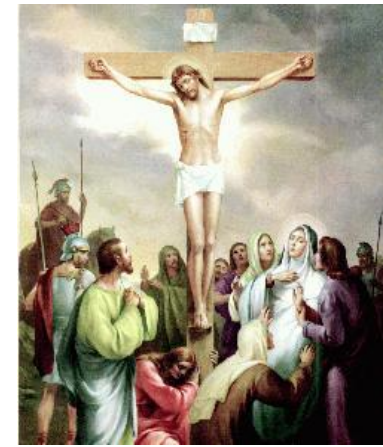


11. Jesus is nailed to the Cross.

The cross is two pieces of both vertical and horizontal wood placed opposite of each other. Piece that in vertical rise represents the will of God; heavy horizontal piece represents each individual desire; and the center where the horizontal and vertical meet together making the cross and that is a generous heart. Every time, one wants to give up his own desires to receive and fulfill God's will, this time that the cross of suffering has begun, and when crucified on the cross was the most shrewd moment to describe about an awesome love of salvation. Love is crucified.

As such, the cross first of all takes the meaning of suffering, because of the struggle with our own desires. But suffering without love is suffering in vain, as well as love with the absence of pain is only false love, so finally when decided to choose God's will, the cross suddenly becomes a meaningful sign of a full love.

Jesus, the Lord was crucified on the cross and has suffered because of love, God has exchanged the immense love of God to receive the extreme pain of all mankind. We thank the Lord. Please let us know the fascination of the Holy Cross and live a suffered life each day over.



12. Jesus died on the cross.

"Father, I commend my soul in your hands ". Jesus said his commend and he took the last breath. Curtain in temple torn in two. The old Covenant has expired, New Covenant has begun. Officer witnessing the Death of Jesus was believed that Jesus is a Righteous man, the involved people are going home to strike their chest to repent. So, just as Jesus had just has his last breath, the cross was overflowing with strength of salvation and from there it has become the source of faith.

"When I hung up, I will pull everything up to me." When still alive, Jesus had once foretold the effect of salvation by the cross, but when "time" of his cross has come, people begin to see the contrast meaning forever through the Gospel of Salvation: wisdom manifests through foolishness; the power rises from weakness; and the happy life arises seemingly as loss and death in pitiful. The Church of those who believe in the love of God originated from here.

My God, we're proud to be the children of God, but sometimes we live no more than the ones who do not have faith. Please tell us, after having participated in celebrating the Paschal mystery of the Lord, we'll live worthy of the faithful believers, and ask for the Kingdom of God every day a wide- spread.

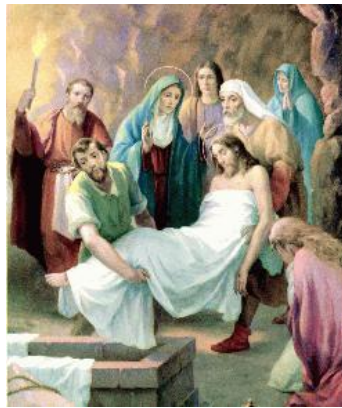


13. Jesus is taken down from the cross.

It was getting late in the afternoon. That day was the day of preparation, close to the Sabbath, so there is no other choice, Joseph Arimathia hastily removed the body of Jesus down and He was given to mother. Mary contemplates the last time. What's more, how miserable her sorrows are. Simeon has prophesied about the sword blade thirty years ago and now has really fulfilled the ragged stab of the heart. She choked with emotion to hold a corpse body of her beloved Son with wounds left open wide and unconsciously embraced a leaf branch of martyrdom at the foot of the cross.

It's the spectacle of sorrow was remarkable for all who believe in full commend to the love of God. "Mary who has believed". Amid the darkest ever, when her son died, when lighting the promise seems off infuse, and when God made as well abandon Messiah, then Mary still stands. Silently embraced and the courage to believe in love.

Mother, witnessing the death of her Son, she has suffered so much and also a Heartbroken Mother. Faith steadfast Mother. Mother communion redemption. Please help us, while carrying the cross and Christ's wounds, and also know how to share the suffering with God, so in the future when the glory of God exhibits, we too will be joyous the same Festival.



14. Jesus is laid in the Tomb.

A large rock door covers the cave. It is the end! The darkness covers it all: the depth of the Tomb of God as deep as the hearts of the Apostles. The darkness seemed to speak the negative aspects of the Passover drama: King of Life was killed in the battle and buried between rocks seemingly distinct in the long period. The darkness also evokes that spectacular disappointment of the Apostles: someone sighs withdrew cluster in a silence filled with anxious uncertainties; someone was disappointed and disengaged; so they came back to their old jobs for the passing days.

But no! Darkness must have a meaning more optimistic. It is no longer a shadow languished with desperation, that has become the night vigil to be awaited. It's also not that a shuddering shadow in horror, but a trustworthy shadow in waiting. It's the highest mystery in the darkness, Jesus had silently prepared for his Easter to rise from the dead, Jesus made up a new life dissipated forever the shadow of death.

Lord Jesus, many times we encountered on the challenge faith seemed as dark as night. Let us know how to fight in silence and firmly rely in faith, so in this darkness with so many hard struggles, we quickly find the pictures of Christ with the heavy images in our souls.

Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 (Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble)
 Tremble

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the
 cross?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the
 cross?
 (Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble)
 Tremble

Were you there when they nailed Him to the
 cross?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 (Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble)
 Tremble

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 Well, were you there when the stone was rolled
 away?
 Were you there when the stone was rolled away?
 (Ohh, sometimes it causes me to tremble)
 Tremble

Were you there when the stone was rolled away?

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Introduction

Rev

