

JESUS,
THE ULTIMATE
SACRIFICIAL
LAMB OF GOD,
WHO PAID FOR
SIN ONCE AND
FOR ALL.



Hillside Highlights

www.hillsideomoncton.org

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Simon from Cyrene Carries Jesus' Cross

by Max Lucado

"A man named Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was coming from the fields to the city. The soldiers forced Simon to carry the cross for Jesus" (Mark 15:21)

Simon grumbles beneath his breath. His patience is as scarce as space on the Jerusalem streets. He'd hoped for a peaceful Passover. The city is anything but quiet. Simon prefers his open fields. And now, to top it off, the Roman guards are clearing the path for some who-knows-which-dignitary who'll march his soldiers and strut his stallion past the people.

"There he is!" Simon's head and dozens of others turn. In an instant they know. This is no dignitary. "It's a crucifixion," he hears someone whisper. Four soldiers. One criminal. Four spears. One cross. The inside corner of the cross saddles the convict's shoulders. Its base drags in the dirt. Its top teeters in the air. The condemned man steadies the cross the best he can, but stumbles beneath its weight. He pushes himself to his feet and lurches forward before falling again. Simon can't see the man's face, only a head wreathed with thorny branches.

The sour-faced centurion grows more agitated with each diminishing step. He curses the criminal and the crowd.

"Hurry up!" "Little hope of that," Simon says to himself.

The cross-bearer stops in front of Simon and heaves for air. Simon winces at what he sees. The beam rubbing against an already raw back. Rivulets of crimson streaking the man's face. His mouth hangs open, both out of pain and out of breath.

"His name is Jesus," someone speaks softly.

"Move on!" commands the executioner.

But Jesus can't. His body leans and feet try, but he can't move. The beam begins to sway. Jesus tries to steady it, but can't. Like a just-cut tree, the cross begins to topple toward the crowd. Everyone steps back, except the farmer. Simon instinctively extends his strong hands and catches the cross.

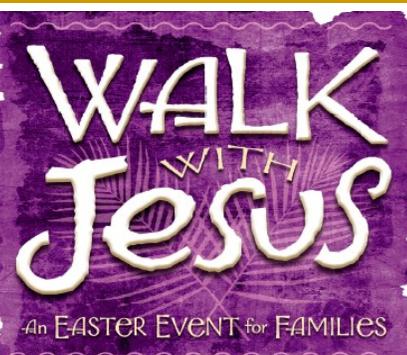
Jesus falls face-first in the dirt and stays there. Simon pushes the cross back on its side. The centurion looks at the exhausted Christ and the bulky bystander and needs only an instant to make the decision. He presses the flat of his spear on Simon's shoulders.

"You! Take the cross!" Simon dares to object, "Sir, I don't even know the man!"

"I don't care. Take up the cross."

Simon growls, balances the timber against his shoulder, and steps out of the crowd onto the street, out of anonymity into history, and becomes the first in a line of millions who will take up the cross and follow Christ.

He did literally what God calls us to do figuratively: take up the cross and follow Jesus. "If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross each day and follow me" (Luke. 9:23 CEV).



Tomorrow Starting @ 6pm It all begins in the Upper Lobby!

Designed specifically for parents and their children to experience the adventure together as they are guided along Jesus' footsteps during his last days on earth. During this engaging event, families will journey through five stations and participate in activities as they:

- Travel to Jerusalem for Palm Sunday
- Sit down for the Last Supper
- Pray in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Discover the sacrifice of Good Friday
- Celebrate freedom from their sins at the empty tomb that first Easter morning.

"Easter Weekend"

Join us this **Friday, April 18 at 10:00am** for our Good Friday Service that will include The Lord's Supper, memorable moments and Pastor Dave's message "Reflect Him in My Suffering". This special service is designed to help us approach the Cross in awe, repentance, sorrow, joy, and thanksgiving.

Easter Sunday is Good News!

In a world full of natural disasters, political corruption, economic turmoil, personal pain and darkness, Jesus is the one true Light that can never be hidden. Come experience the Hope of Easter with **our 100 voice choir** and hear Pastor Jerry's hope-filled message "**Jesus, Light of the World**".



A word to our Hillside Family!!

With our special Easter events starting on Wednesday night, we are expecting lots of guests!!! So let's please remember to give up our best parking spots and seats for these guests. This is a way we can all "shine" and reflect His loving hospitality this Easter!



At key times in the year like Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter a special offering (above and beyond our regular giving) is received to strategically extend a blessing to others. This year's Easter Offering is designated for these 3 exciting causes: **Vacation Bible School**, the **Youth Mission Trip** to New York City, and the ministry of **Camp Wildwood**. Each of these ministries will powerfully influence the lives of hundreds of children, youth and their families this summer. As a church with a premiere family ministry, let's shine with great generosity to meet **the goal of \$10,000**. Simply mark your gift "Easter" and it can be given on any upcoming Sunday or on Good Friday. Your kindness is appreciated!

HOTSHEET

Interested in a serve opportunity? Check out the Hot Opportunities sheet attached to this email. You can indicate any area(s) of interest on your Connection Card this Sunday. There are many ways you make a difference by serving at Hillside.

- Tonight — PALS (Pretty Amazing LadieS) 6:45 pm
- Wed. — "Walk With Jesus" Family Easter Event 6-8pm
- Thurs. — LIFT (Ladies Bible Study) 9:15am
- Fri. — Good Friday Service 10am
- Mon. — Easter Monday Holiday (Church Office Closed)

