

Stations *in the* Street

Walking Guide

March 6 – April 21, 2019



Thanks for being a part of this special art show. Regardless of what you carry to this exhibit today, it is our hope that these images in this place help you to experience God's love which is as wide as the any of our human experiences of sorrow, pain, or injustice, and as deep as any wounding, suffering, or death. Here is a reflection, a song, some Scripture passages, and meditations to help you walk with Jesus.

-Pastor Chris Breslin
Oak Church
Lent 2019

...I haven't done much walking in my life. There have always been planes, trains, cars, and buses to take me from one place to another. My feet have not had much contact with the dust of the earth; there have always been wheels to make it easy for me. In my world there are not many people who walk. It is hard even to find anyone on the side of the road to ask for directions. In my world people go from one place to another locked in their moving cubicles, listening to a favorite cassette, and only occasionally meeting other people in parking lots, supermarkets, or fast-food outlets.

But Jesus walked, and he still does. Jesus walks from village to village, and, he as walks, he meets the poor.

He meets the beggars, the blind, the sick, the mourners, and those who have lost hope. He remains very close to the earth. He feels the heat of the day and the cold of the night. He knows about the grass that withers and fades, the rocky soil, the thorny bushes, the barren trees, the flowers of the field, and the rich harvest. He knows because he walks so much and feels in his own body the harshness and the vitality of the seasons. He listens attentively to those with whom he walks, and he speaks to them with the authority of a true companion on the road. He is stern yet merciful, direct yet very gentle, demanding yet very forgiving, probing yet very respectful. He cuts deep, but with the hands of a healer; he separates, but only to let grow; he repudiates, but always to make affirmation possible. Jesus is deeply connected to the earth on which he walks. He observes the forces of nature; he learns from them, teaches about them, and reveals that the God of Creation is the same God who sent him to announce good news to the poor, sight to the blind, and freedom to the prisoners...

-Henri Nouwen, *Walk With Jesus*

140 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Freely ♩ = ♩⁻³ ♩

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 when my heart is al - most break - ing,
 when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Words: African American spiritual
 Music (SOJOURNER irregular): African American spiritual, P.D.

I. JESUS IS TEMPTED

Read: Matthew 26:36-46

It is coming to a head: Jesus is plotted against and pursued, snatched on by his friend, and abandoned by his closest apprentices. In the midst of all of this turmoil he draws near to God. Though there is pain and suffering ahead, God will make a way out of no way. God is with him and working through him. When have you been tempted protect yourself rather than trust in God?



II. JESUS IS BETRAYED

Read: Matthew 26:14-30

Judas did everything with Jesus: saw healings, and heard his teachings, he surely celebrated and mourned with him on their journeys. Yet he chooses to sell his friend out. Have you ever betrayed someone or felt deeply betrayed by someone you knew as a friend? Once trust is broken, is it possible for a relationship to be healed?

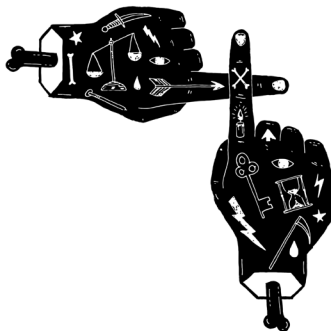


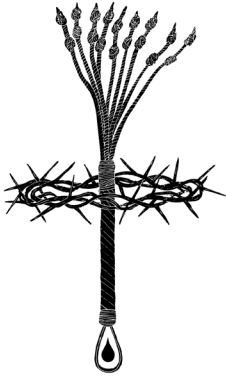
III. JESUS IS CONDEMNED

Read: Luke 22:52-71

All of the mechanisms of injustice start to operate at full tilt. Corrupt civic officials, vicious religious elite, indifferent moderates who've encounter Jesus before as part of a crowd, all collude. And Jesus submits. He doesn't add words to or deny the accusations. They are more true than anyone knows, but in the way no one expects. He is indeed the "Son of God."

How difficult is it to stand before accusations without attempting to clarify, dispel, or justify? What does it feel like to be misunderstood?





IV. JESUS IS MOCKED

Read: Matthew 27:27-31

It is not enough for Jesus to be a victim of misunderstanding and injustice, the soldiers must humiliate him, must diminish his body, must make him feel and look less than human.

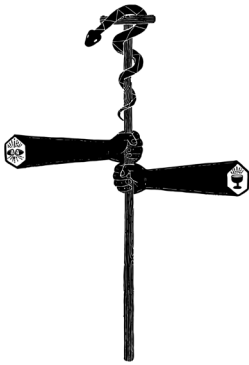
Who in our society, in our city, in our neighborhood, experiences this sort of dehumanization?

V. JESUS IS GIVEN HIS CROSS

Read: John 3:14-21

The cross was not only an instrument of capital punishment, but it was made to intimidate, to bring about scorn and shame.

To be given a cross was to be made a human scarecrow, a deterrent to others. Roadside crosses were like car crashes—the sort of thing you didn't want to see but couldn't look away. What are the causes of shame in your life? How are they hidden or on display? How could something as brutal a Roman cross become an instrument and symbol of God's love?



VI. JESUS FALLS

Read: John 12:20-33

The cross is a place of paradox. It bears witness that the way to flourishing comes through sacrifice, blessing through poverty, and life through death. Jesus, the Word Made Flesh, has a very human body. His body, like ours, hurts...tires...breaks.

Where are you hurting? What causes you fatigue? Whose bodies around you are breaking?





VII. SIMON CARRIES JESUS' CROSS

Read: Mark 15:21-32

In an instant Simon goes from bystander to participant.

He is pulled into Jesus' suffering.

He is given the responsibility of easing some of Jesus' burden.

*When have you been pulled into someone else's suffering?
How did you respond and what mark did it leave on you?*

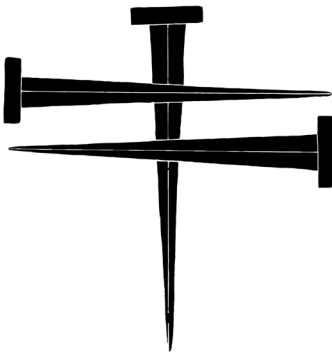


VIII. JESUS IS STRIPPED

Read: Luke 23:32-43

Everything Jesus owned was taken from him, even the garment off his back. Jesus wasn't only stripped of his clothes, but also his dignity. What does it feel like to be taken advantage of?

What does it feel like to be exposed?



IX. JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Read: Matthew 27:45-46

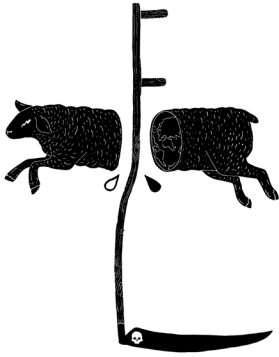
Jesus journeys to the darkest, loneliest place.

A place of abandonment. The cross only had room for one.

How could God also be there?

X. JESUS DIES

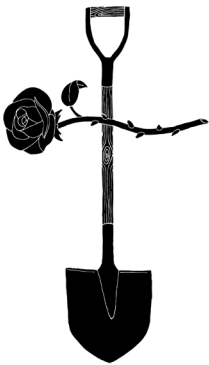
Read: Isaiah 53



Jesus died. Along with the death of his body was the apparent death of all the hope that swirled around him. It seemed as if it would be different this time— that there would be more— healing, peace, justice. But in the end, just more of the same— the same story of power-brokers, sin, brokenness, corruption, injustice...and death. Where have you felt this disappointment, sorrow, and disillusionment? Where have you felt hope only to have it wrenched away by death?

XI. JESUS IS BURIED

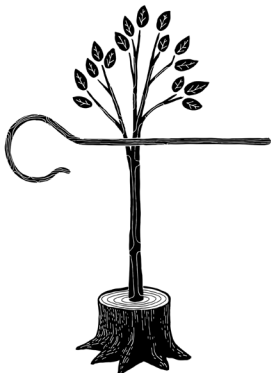
Read: Luke 23:50-56



Jesus is buried by his friends and followers. Have you ever felt this kind of grief? Their sorrow must have been compounded by their disappointed expectation, along with the shame of their friend's abrupt and public death.

XII. JESUS RISES

Read: John 20:1-18



Mary's weeping is turned to joy. But not without quite a bit of confusion. She makes an honest mistake, thinking Jesus is the graveyard gardener. He was the last person she expected to encounter. The risen Jesus continues to surprise us by encountering us when and where we least expect. He turns our sorrow into dancing, but not without a pretty drastic reconfiguration of everything we think we know about the world and how it works. Will you join in step with this Jesus who continues to walk through death into new and lasting life?