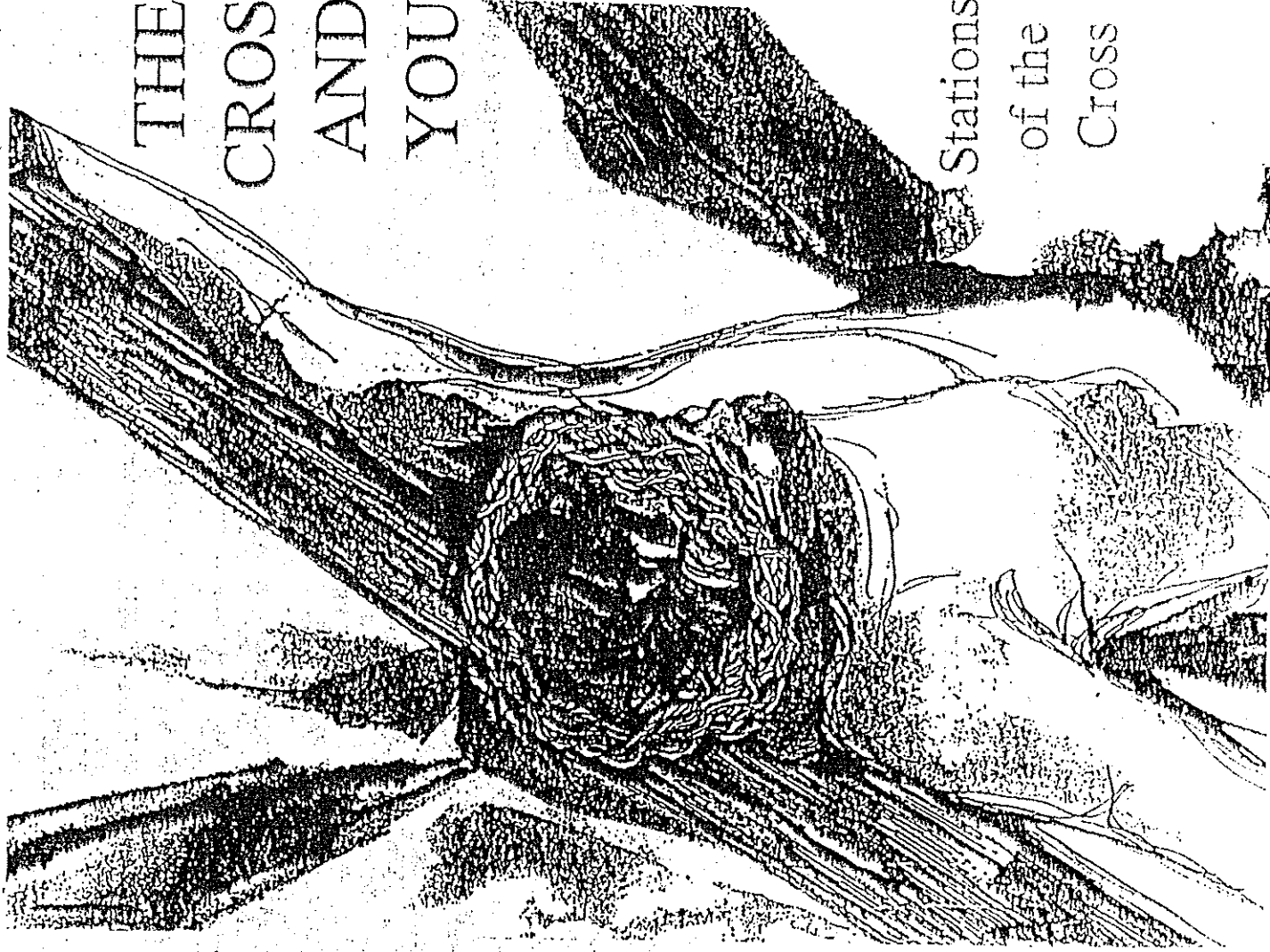


THE
CROSS
AND
YOU

Stations
of the
Cross



CHRIST SPEAKS

*These steps that you are now about to walk,
you do not take alone.*

I walk with you.

*Though you are you, and I am I,
Yet we are truly one -- in Me (Christ)*

*And, therefore, my "WAY OF THE CROSS" 2,000 years
ago and your "WAY" now are also one.*

*But note this difference. My life was incomplete until
I crowned it by my death and rising to life again.
Your steps now will only be complete when you have
crowned them by your life.*

THE FIRST STATION -- JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS

Again the High Priest asked, "ARE YOU THE MESSIAH THE SON OF THE BLESSED ONE?" Jesus answered, "*I AM* . . . " After condemning him to death they sent him to Pilate who questioned him. But . . . when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing but rather that a riot was beginning he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I AM INNOCENT OF THIS MAN'S BLOOD; SEE TO IT YOURSELVES." And all of the people answered, "HIS BLOOD IS ON US AND ON OUR CHILDREN". Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

WE REPLY

Lord Jesus, although you knew you would have to die, you would not deny your divinity. Help me to be proud of my uniqueness. You have given me special talents, gifts, and abilities that no one else has. Teach me to use them for Your glory. Stand beside me when others may laugh at me because I look, act, or think differently than they do. Teach me to respect the uniqueness of others.

When I deny who I am or that I am yours, I deny myself, and I am hiding you because you are in my uniqueness. Teach me not simply to follow everyone else but to make my own path in life. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood, you have redeemed us.

REPLY

Save us and help us, we pray to you O Lord.

SONG

Whatever you do to the least of my children, that you do unto me.

THE SECOND STATION -- JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS

Then the soldiers of the Governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe upon him, they made a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him they mocked him, saying, "HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS." And they spat upon him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him they stripped him of the robe, and put his own clothes on him, and led him away to crucify him.

WE REPLY

Jesus, although innocent, you took up your cross. Help me to take up my daily burdens with courage and to offer them to you. Teach me to avoid the temptation to escape from my difficulties in harmful ways. By persevering, may I find eternal happiness in you.

Sometimes, the pressure may seem too great for me to handle. At these times, protect me, assist me, and encourage me to go on. Show me that I can turn to you for hope, security and love. Help me to find permanent solutions to my problems instead of relying on temporary escapes. You, O Lord are my strength. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood, you have redeemed us.

REPLY

Save us and help us, we pray to you O Lord.

SONG

Whatever you do to the least of my children, that you do unto me.

THE THIRD STATION -- THE CROSS IS LAID ON SIMON

THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS

And they compelled a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry His cross. And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means, the place of the skull). And they offered him wine mingled with myrrh; but he did not take it.

WE REPLY

Dear Lord, the hours of fatigue, the torture and the weight of your massive cross soon wore you out and Simon was forced to carry your cross. Often my cross becomes almost unbearable and I think I can no longer go on. I have doubts and problems, yet there seem to be no visible answers. In those times please help me to turn toward you and others for guidance. Help me to discover possible options through prayer. And give me people to whom I can turn with my concerns. Through their assistance, may your presence be felt and may your guidance be available.

Also, God, please make me more trusting. By opening myself to others, I become more vulnerable. Show me the positive outcomes that could result by allowing someone to help me carry my cross.
AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood, you have redeemed us.

REPLY

Save us and help us, we pray to you O Lord.

SONG

Whatsoever you do to the least of my children, that you do unto me.

THE FOURTH STATION -- JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS

After reaching Golgotha, the heavy burden of the cross was finally removed, but His suffering was far from over. As the nails were driven through his hands and feet, the pain he felt was excruciating.

To add to the humiliation, two criminals were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And JESUS said, "**FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING.**" . . . There was also an inscription over him, "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

WE REPLY

Dear Jesus, I know that every time I hurt others, I am hurting You also. But somehow, You considered me worthwhile enough to suffer for me. You could have escaped, but You wanted to save me from sin and death.

Please forgive me when I cause other people pain. Teach me to also forgive others when they hurt me, as you forgave those who nailed You onto the cross to die. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood, you have redeemed us.

REPLY

Save us and help us, we pray to you O Lord.

SONG

Whatever you do to the least of my children, that you do unto me.

THE FIFTH STATION -- JESUS DIES UPON THE CROSS

THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS

It was now the sixth hour (noon), and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, when the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then JESUS, crying with a loud voice, said, "**FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.**" And having said this he breathed his last.

WE REPLY

Jesus, while you hung on the cross, your life may have seemed like a failure. Abandoned by all, your previous work could have seemed wasted. You had lost all integrity, hope and love. Even your Father appeared to have forgotten you. After all of the wrongs done against you, how could you stay on the cross and die for me? Am I really worth that much? You said yes.

Lord, often I have no idea where my life is going or what the future holds for me. Above all things, help me to do your will. When I don't know what you expect from me, guide me along the right paths, and when I wander away from you, call me back. You will always give me the strength to do what is needed. Since I was worth that huge sacrifice hundreds of years ago, you would not leave me helpless now. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood, you have redeemed us.

REPLY

Save us and help us, we pray to you O Lord.

SONG

Whatsoever you do to the least of my children, that you do unto me.

THE SIXTH STATION -- JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS

Since it was the day of preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for the Sabbath was a High Day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to JESUS and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of JESUS, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might have the body of JESUS, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body.

WE REPLY

Lord Jesus, sometimes it is difficult to see your actions in my life.

Often I forget about you. I am preoccupied with school, chores, work, projects, problems and decisions. I often forget or seem too busy to pray. Even when I try to pray, my mind wanders away from you. Help me, Lord, to make time for you in my life. And teach me to offer up my daily activities as a prayer. You are the most important thing to me. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood, you have redeemed us.

REPLY

Save us and help us, we pray to you O Lord.

SONG

Whatever you do to the least of my children, that you do unto me.

THE SEVENTH STATION -- JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

THE SCRIPTURE SPEAKS

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish Day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid JESUS there. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and saw the tomb, and how his body was laid: then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

WE REPLY

Dear Jesus, after you died, your disciples must have felt sad and hopeless -- both for losing you as their teacher and friend, and for thinking that your mission was left unfinished.

Help me, Lord, when I feel overwhelmed - when everything seems to be going wrong and I feel I can no longer go on. Knowing that you love me and believe in me is reassuring. Show me in times of hopelessness that life is worth living, and that better, happier times lie ahead of me, if I can just hang on. Help me never run away from my problems. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE

O Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood, you have redeemed us.

REPLY

Save us and help us, we pray to you O Lord.