

THE WEEK OF
JANUARY 23RD, 2012



BIBLE CAFE

DEATH BEFORE DEATH

JOHN 19

"So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' And they struck Him with their hands.

John 19:1-3

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." Isaiah beautifully prophesies the ultimate expression of love. An expression that would ultimately end in the death of the Messiah, the Son of God, Jesus. But before his death He would experience what many historians believe to be the most excruciating form of punishment: The Roman Scourging. There were three levels of beating that the Roman would carry out. The first two were severe but more or less superficial in the extent of their physical toll. The third level, which Pilate carried out on the body of Jesus, was brutal. Called, "death before death" it would leave the punished either clinging to life or, in some cases, giving their lives up to death. These are the wounds, bruises and chastisement that Jesus took for us. It was the necessary part of His crucifixion, for all crucifixions necessarily included the scourging. How great our redeemer is on our behalf. Our response? I think of what Paul wrote in Romans 12, "that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." Or the words of Jesus in Matthew 16, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." Jesus experience the Roman "death before death". Now, in Matthew 16, he describes our "death before death". "Take up your cross", Jesus says, to all those who would choose to follow Him. In other words, "die to yourself". It's the clarion call of the disciple of Jesus. And its our privilege. For in willingly experiencing our death before death, we identify with the Savior; who willingly experienced a much greater version...for us.

Listen to Pastor Skip's message, "How Do You Handle Jesus?"
http://www.calvaryabq.org/services_detail.asp?ServiceID=1003

Read the Proverb and the section of Psalm 119 that corresponds with the calendar day example:
If it's the 1st day of the month, read Proverbs 1 and Psalm 119:1-8 (Aleph)

Daily Readings for the week:

Mon: Matthew 15:1-20; Exodus 7,8

Tues: Matthew 15:21-39; Exodus 9,10,11

Wed: Matthew 16; Exodus 12,13

Thurs: Matthew 17; Exodus 14,15

Fri: Matthew 18:1-20; Exodus 16,17,18

Sat: Matthew 18:21-35; Exodus 19,20

Sun: Matthew 19; Exodus 21,22

Discussion Questions for Bible Café:

1. What does it mean to take up your cross, die to yourself and follow Jesus? What has it meant in your life specifically?

2. Why is Jesus' calling so difficult? What hinders us from truly dying to self and taking up our cross daily?

Prayer Requests of your Bible Café brothers (on back):