A dramatic sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The sky is filled with golden light and dark, heavy clouds. In the foreground, a large, solid black cross silhouette stands prominently against the bright sky. The water below is dark, with some lighter patches reflecting the sky's light.

Good Friday Service

***Friday is the
Road to Sunday***

Matthew 16:21-25

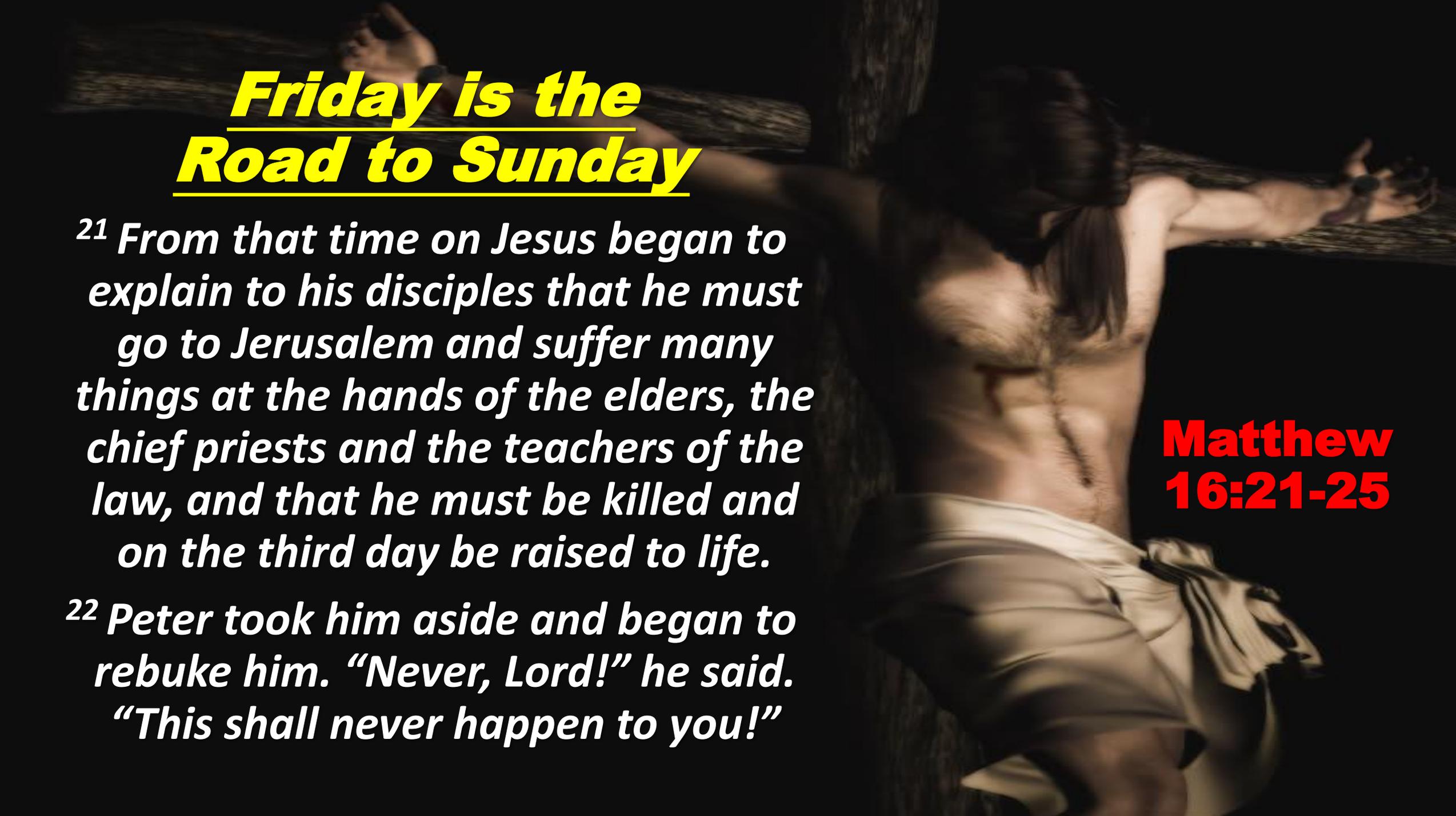
Turning Point of Our Life

From Sorrow into Joy

How does it come about?



*"You have turned my
mourning into joyful
DANCING."* Psalm 30:11



Friday is the Road to Sunday

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

**Matthew
16:21-25**

***23 Jesus turned and said to Peter,
“Get behind me, Satan! You are a
stumbling block to me; you do not
have in mind the concerns of God,
but merely human concerns.”***

***24 Then Jesus said to his disciples,
“Whoever wants to be my disciple
must deny themselves and take up
their cross and follow me.***

***25 For whoever wants to save
their life will lose it, but whoever
loses their life for me will find it.***



Turning Point of Jesus' Ministry

***21 From that time on
Jesus began to explain to his
disciples that he must go to
Jerusalem and suffer many
things at the hands of the
elders, the chief priests and the
teachers of the law, and that
he must be killed and on the
third day be raised to life.***

First Predict His Death

3xs in Mark

8:31, 9:31, 10:33-34.

Caesarea Philippi Banias

Depiction of Caesarea Philippi
during the time of the New Testament

Cave

Shrine to Caesar

Shrine to Pan

Temple to Zeus

Dance floor of
the sacred goats

Paneas - Greek god *Pan*
Cave - *Gate of Hades*



Peter's Protest

*22 Peter took him aside
and began to rebuke him.*

“Never, Lord!” he said.

“This shall never happen to you!”

**Problem with
the Cross**

WHY?



Jesus' Respond

23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

The Work of Satan

The Mind of Man

Do not be Deceived!

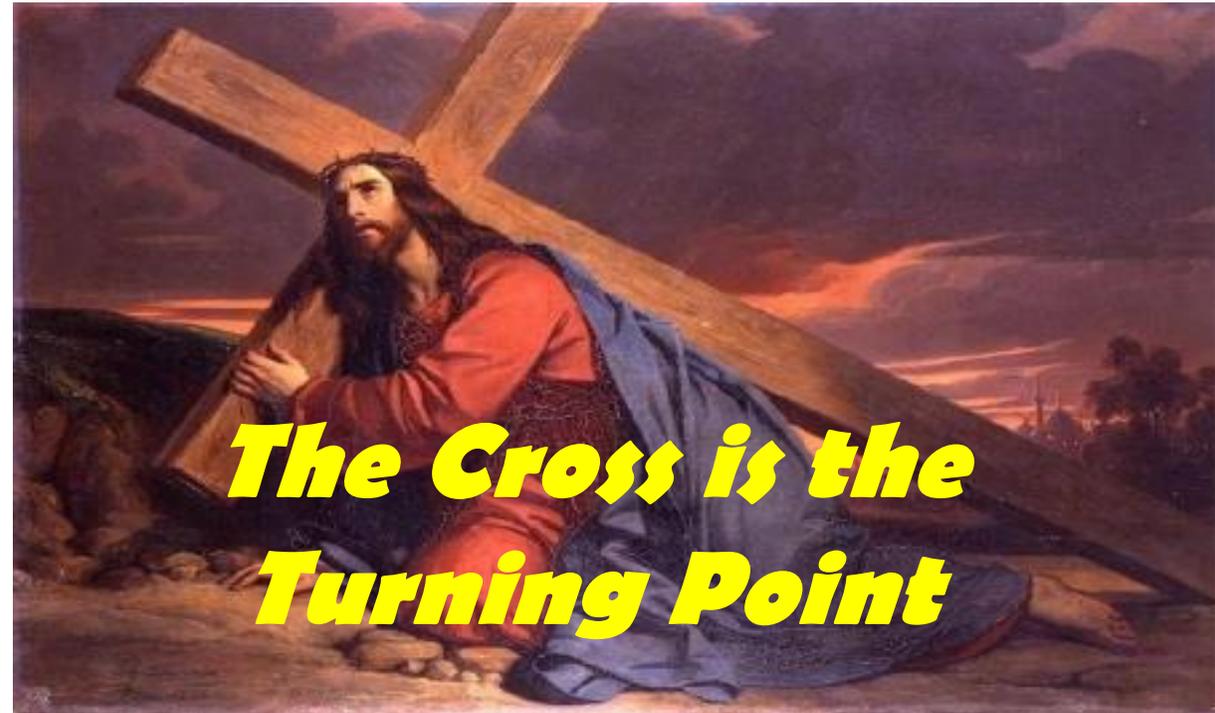


The fact is

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

***Beginning of Change
for the Better***

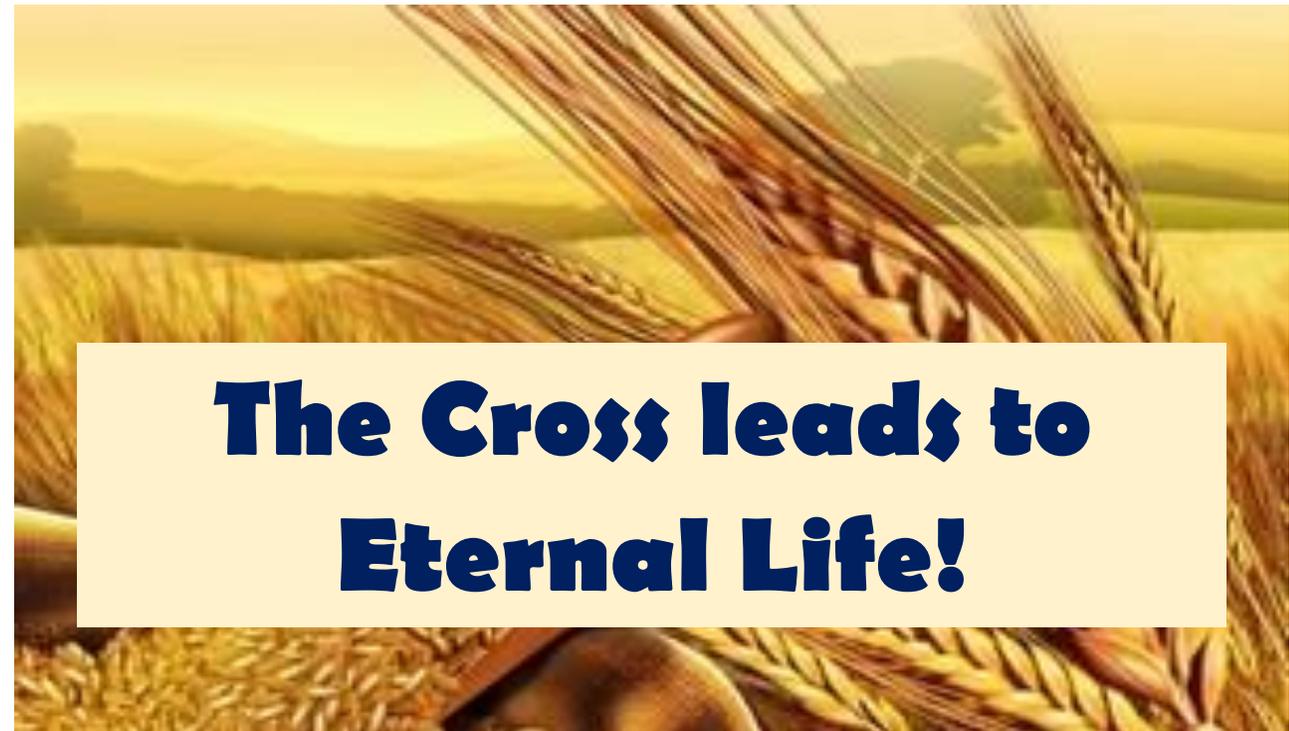


Mystery of the Cross Revealed

John 12:24-25

24 Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

25 Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.



The truth is:

²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.



1 Corinthians 1:22-25

The Cross is the Power & Wisdom of God

Power & Wisdom of the Cross

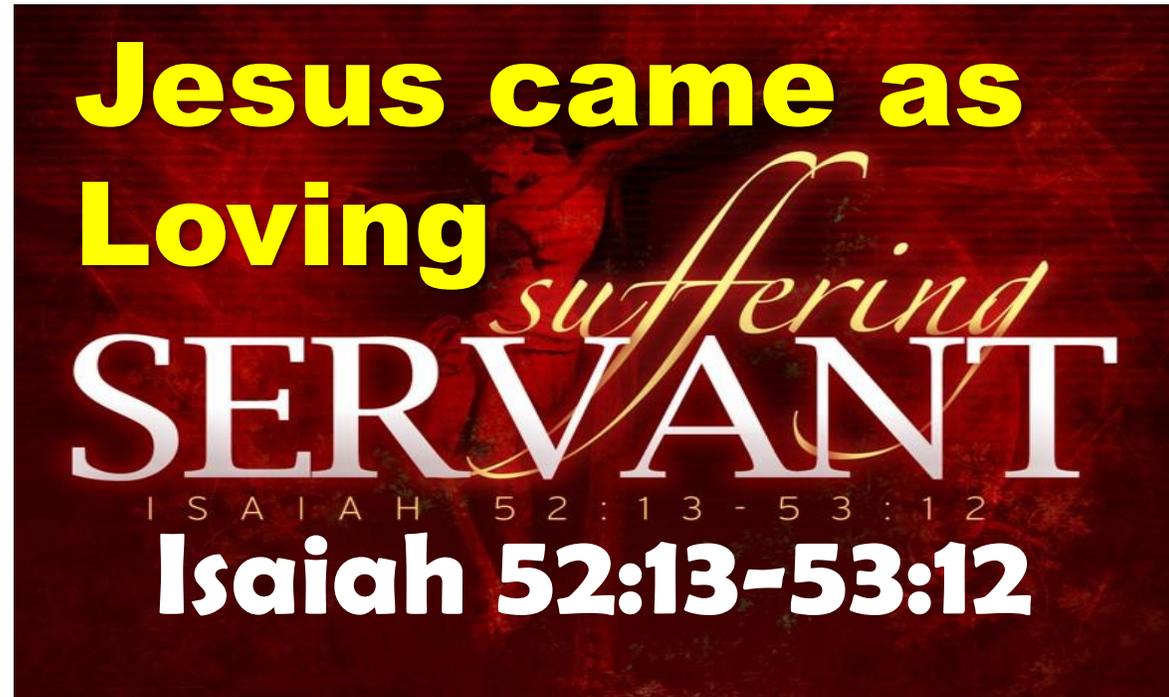
How else would he understand what his disciples and all humanity have to go through?

How else could he enter into the pain of the world and share it?

How could he get to the root of the evil in the world, which lies below the pain?

How could he overcome the deadly disease of human sin and cosmic disorder?

Michael Green



The Cross is the Turning Point of Our Life

***“Once you take up
the cross, everything
begins to change!”***

2 Corinthians 12:9,

***“My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made
perfect in weakness.”***



How can we do so?

Friday is the Road to Sunday

*³⁶ 'Abba, Father,' he said,
'everything is possible for you.
Take this cup from me.*

Yet not what I will, but what you will.'

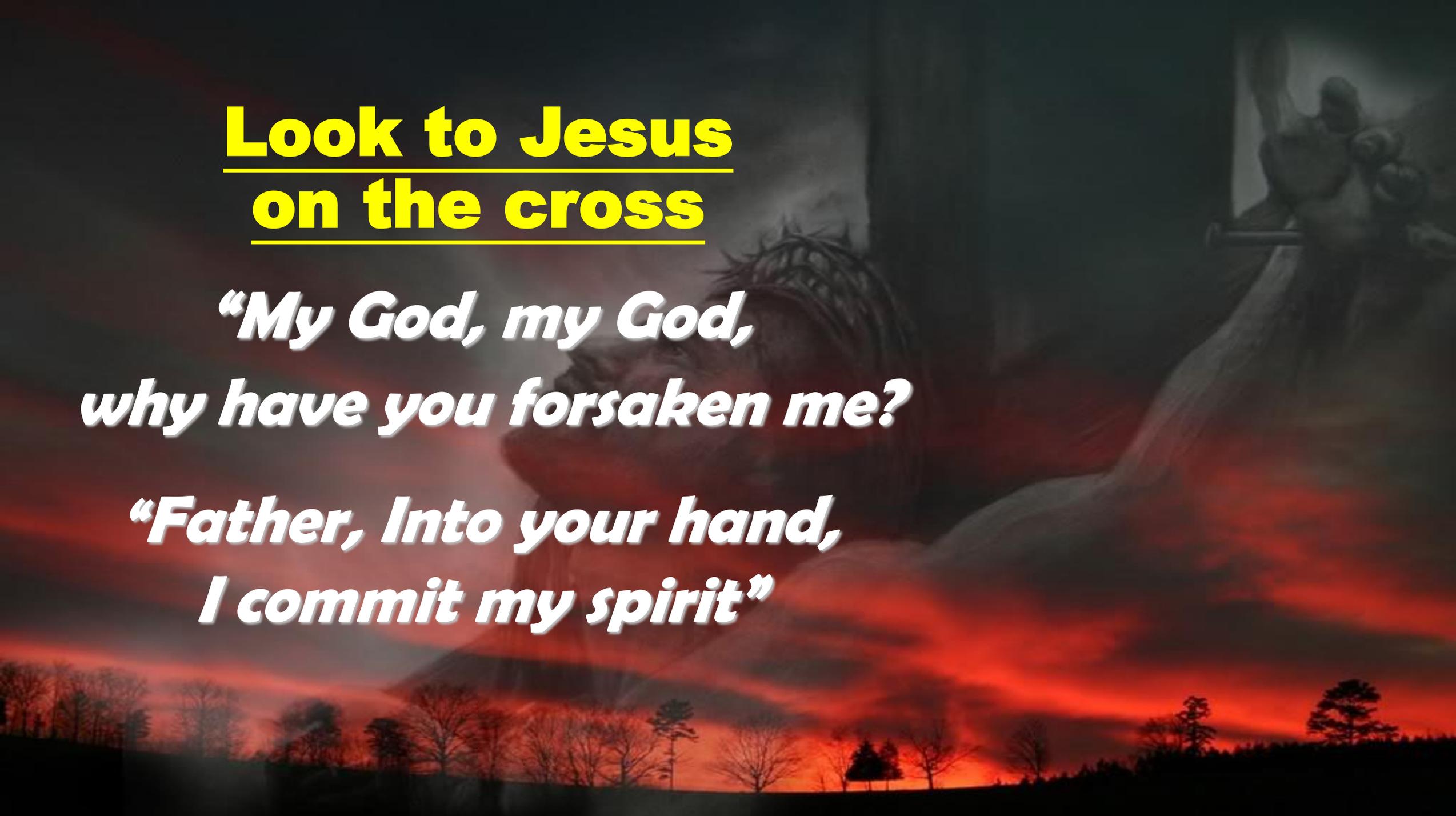


Garden of Gethsemane

Look to Jesus
on the cross

***“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”***

***“Father, Into your hand,
I commit my spirit”***



Have Faith in God

***Deny Yourself,
Take up the Cross
and Follow Him!***



The Cross is

The Turning Point

From Sorrow to Joy

Thrive in the

Midst of Challenges

**COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

Is Not the Cross

Live the Crucified Life!

*I have been crucified with Christ.
It is no longer I who live, but Christ
Who lives in me. And the life I now
live in the flesh I live by faith in the
Son of God, Who loved me and
gave Himself for me.*

Galatians 2:20



**With Good Friday
Comes Easter Sunday**

**Live the
Resurrected Life
in Christ**

