

# *I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked*

Corinne Cameron and Terri Wallace, Regina, Saskatchewan — Bible references from the Message Paraphrase

**“The footprints of Jesus through His last week”**

## **Words Of Welcome**

Welcome to our prayer room. It is our hope that as you work your way through this room you will draw closer to God, and through that closeness you will discover in a new and deeper way, all that Jesus has done, is doing and will do for you. In Matthew 11:28-30 we discover the following invitation: *“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me — watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”* Please come and keep company with Jesus as you go on this prayer journey.

## **Station One: Jesus stays at Bethany**

Have pieces of incense available at this station.

John 12:1-3

*Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus’ feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house.*



Jesus stayed within walking distance of Jerusalem, we know that in this town his very good friends lived, and we read in the verses above that these friends cared for Jesus. Mary came to Jesus in a very special way, his feet were tired and worn from the journey, he was aware that within the week he would be arrested, tried, convicted and executed. In this meal Jesus experienced a time to slow down and rest.

Today you are entering this room — are you experiencing different sources of stress in your life? Are there things you are worried about? In this station we invite you to slow down, and to rest for a while in the presence of God.

We invite you to take a piece of incense, to smell it, and to think how the perfume which

Mary rubbed into Jesus' feet brought to him relief and comfort. Jesus is here to offer you relief and comfort. After smelling the incense, we invite you to rest with Jesus for a while. Close your eyes, and sit quietly for one minute, and rest in the presence of Jesus.

### **Station Two: Jesus throws the moneychangers out of the Temple**

Provide paper, pencils and coins at this station.

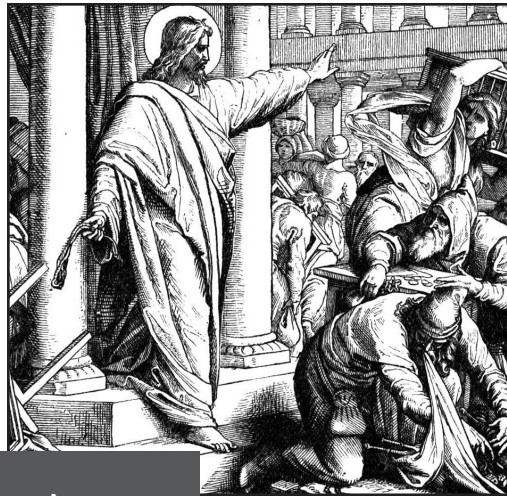
Matthew 21:12-13

*Jesus went straight to the Temple and threw out everyone who had set up shop, buying and selling. He kicked over the tables of loan sharks and the stalls of dove merchants. He quoted this text: "My house was designated a house of prayer; You have made it a hangout for thieves."*

Jesus was very distressed to arrive at the Temple and discover how many people were being distracted from worship by everything that was happening in the outer courtyard. This courtyard was the only place where women and Gentiles were permitted to worship God, but they were surrounded by "wheeling and dealing." Jesus was also distressed to see how the Law had been distorted and rather than people bringing a heartfelt offering, were being forced to buy "acceptable" offerings once they arrive.

For each of us there are many times when we enter worship (either a church service or personal devotions) very distracted. This distraction stays at the forefront of our worship. Therefore we end up not spending quality time with God.

We invite you to think of different things that distract you as you approach worship: a person cutting you off in traffic, a song that you don't like, your children arguing on the way to church or in the background, a cross word spoken to your spouse, and the list continues ...



*"My house  
was designated  
a house  
of prayer ..."*

Now with that thought in mind, we invite you to take a pencil and a sheet of paper and to trace the outline of the coin ... do you see how, even though you are not holding the coin, it has stayed with you? Our distracted thoughts are often like this in worship, we think we have left it behind, but the upset is still with us.

Now we invite you to spend some time in prayer to ask God to help you leave your distractions behind, and to cope better with upsets that happen, so that they don't turn you away. Please read quietly to yourself:

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of life will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.*

### **Station Three: Jesus washes his disciples feet**

Place bottles of hand sanitizer at this station.

John 13:1-5

*Just before the Passover Feast, Jesus knew that the time had come to leave this world to go to the Father. Having loved his dear companions, he continued to love them right to the end. It was suppertime. The Devil by now had Judas, son of Simon the Iscariot, firmly in his grip, all set for the betrayal. Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron.*

Jesus humbled himself before His disciples, and he donned a towel, and knelt before those he loved, and washed their feet. He poured out his love upon them and He served them.

Jesus recognized that even though they were clean in their bodies, they had picked up dirt through their journey. In that way, we too need to be cleansed ... we invite you to take some hand sanitizer and as you rub this cleansing solution into your hands think about different things that you have done today that have not made God happy (that have made you unclean).

If you are journeying through this room with others, we now invite you to turn to each other, and to "serve each other" by taking some hand

sanitizer and washing each other's hands.

### **Station Four: Jesus shares in the Passover meal**

Have pieces of string available at this station.

Matthew 26:26-29

*During the meal, Jesus took and blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to his disciples: Take, eat. This is my body. Taking the cup and thanking God, he gave it to them: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, God's new covenant poured out for many people for the forgiveness of sins. "I'll not be drinking wine from this cup again until that new day when I'll drink with you in the kingdom of my Father."*



Just before Jesus was arrested, He literally became the Passover Lamb; Jesus shared in this very symbolic meal with His disciples. This meal is a meal which celebrates how the Israelite people were set free from their bondage of slavery in Egypt.

Each of us also struggle with being bound by different negative patterns and coping mechanisms in our lives. We may not have metal chains on our ankles and be forced

to work for no wage, but we have spiritual chains, forged by decisions we make, different ways we react, negative tapes we play. Jesus came to the earth, lived here for thirty-three years, and died a very painful death – to break the chains of our sin, our bondage. Not only did Jesus die, he also rose from the dead three days later and that power over death, is available to each of us, to break free from our chains.



We invite you to take a piece of string, and to ponder upon different things in your life that bind you ... it could be an addiction, a relationship, a negative response to certain people and situations ... for each of us they will be different. For each negative you are able to identify we ask you to tie a knot in your string, look upon these and see how you are being bound.

Now, through prayer, please give these sins over to God, and as you do, untie the knot

in the string and claim the freedom that is available to you.

### **Station Five: Jesus prays in The Garden of Gethsemane**

Place blank cards at this station.

Matthew 26:36-39, *The Message*

*Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples,*

*“Stay here while I go over there and pray.” Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, “This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me.” Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, “My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do you want?”*

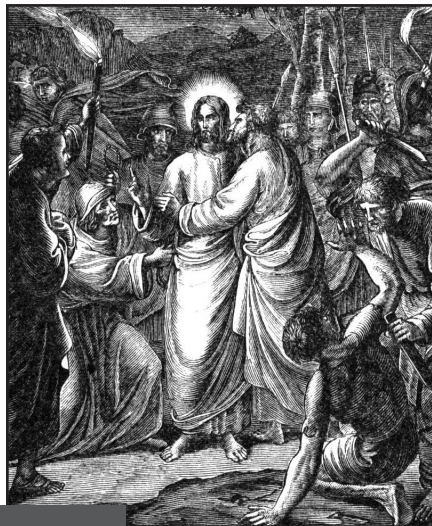
*Going a little ahead,  
he fell on his face,  
praying, “My Father,  
... not what I want.  
You, what do you want?”*

In this time of prayer we see Jesus experience deep spiritual anguish as He knows that He is just about to be arrested and that He will die, but He also knows that this death is a spiritual death and He will be separated and forsaken by God, His Father. Jesus knows what He must do, but in complete obedience, He prays that God will find another way. Yet as we listen to this prayer, we also discover complete and utter surrender, as He says “Not what I want, but what you want ...”

It is one thing to read those words; it is another to actually pray them. We invite you to think of

areas in your life that you are having a hard time giving over to God, and to spend some time in surrendering them to Him.

Another aspect of this time in the Garden is that Jesus did not go alone. Jesus took with Him, three of His disciples. Yet even though He was physically not alone, Jesus was spiritually isolated, for those He asked to come with Him and pray with Him, fell asleep. As Christians we are called on to be intercessors, to take the time to pray for other people, to support them in their ministry through prayer, to support them in times of trial through prayer, to support them with family situations through prayer.



The words “I’ll pray for you” can be easily spoken, yet let us not “fall asleep” as the disciples did, let us take the time to pray for them.

We invite you to take a card, and to list the names of people in your life that you can pray for. We invite you to take some time in prayer for them, but to take this card away with you, and to continue to pray for them.

### **Station Six: Jesus is arrested**

Matthew 26:47-50

*Judas (the one from the Twelve) showed up, and with him a gang from the high priests and religious leaders brandishing swords and clubs. The betrayer had worked out a sign with them: “The one I kiss, that’s the one — seize him. “ He went straight to Jesus, greeted him, “How are you, Rabbi?” and kissed him. Jesus said, “Friend, why this charade?” Then they came on him — grabbed him and roughed him up.*

Jesus was handed over by one of those that

*Judas ...  
showed up, and  
with him a gang  
... brandishing  
swords and clubs*

was very close to Him, one of His disciples. When we look back at this story we know that Jesus was aware this was going to happen, we know that Jesus had to be arrested in order to bring about our salvation.

But today, we invite you to spend some time trying to picture how it would have felt for Jesus to be betrayed this way, by a person He had spent such a long time with in His personal ministry.

We can look back on Jesus’ arrest, with the knowledge that Judas traded in Jesus for thirty pieces of silver, and think to ourselves, how did Judas do this? Yet, each day we make decisions where we choose something over Jesus, and in that way we “trade him in.”

Different things we choose each day could include a television show, magazines, a video game, food and the list goes on. For each one of us, it is different ...

We invite you to ask the Lord to show you if

there is an area in your life where He is not included or invited. We invite you to ask the Lord to show you if there is something He would like you to give away for Him ...

With these in minds, please take a chocolate coin (symbolic of the payment Judas received) and to ask Jesus to give you the courage to invite Him into each part of your life.

### **Station Seven: Jesus carries His cross and is crucified**

Place a cross, small pieces of black cloth and thumbtacks at this station.

Matthew 27:31-46

*They stripped Him and dressed him in a red toga. They plaited a crown from branches of a thorn bush and set it on His Head. They put a stick in His right hand for a scepter. Then they knelt before*

*... After they had finished nailing Him to the cross and were waiting for Him to die*

*Him in mocking reverence: "Bravo, King of the Jews!" they said. "Bravo!" Then they spit on Him and hit Him on the head with the stick. When they had had their fun, they took off the toga and put His own clothes back on Him. Then they proceeded out to the crucifixion ... Along the way they came on a man from Cyrene named Simon and made him carry Jesus' cross. Arriving at Golgotha, the place they call "Skull Hill," they offered Him a mild painkiller (a mixture of wine and myrrh), but when He tasted it He wouldn't drink it ... After they had finished nailing Him to the cross and were waiting for Him to die ... Along with Him, they also crucified two*

*criminals, one to His right, the other to his left ... From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around mid-afternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"*

Jesus died on the cross for each of our sins



... He died in order that each of us may be in relationship with God, and have all of the freedom and blessing. This relationship is a gift that is available to each of us.

We invite you to take a black piece of cloth, which symbolizes the sin in your life, and to nail it to the cross, and leave it there.

Jesus died on the cross for each of our sins. We now may live forgiven, free and