

# On the Way to Calvary

Matthew 27:27-32; Mark 15:21, 22; Luke 23:26, 27; *The Desire of Ages*, pp.741, 742

**H**as anyone ever helped you carry something really heavy? Or have you helped someone lift something that was too heavy for them? Simon helped Jesus carry something very heavy for Him.

**J**esus had just endured the worst night imaginable. After the Passover feast He had gone with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. There, He was arrested. During the night He was put on trial. He was harshly questioned before the high priest, the Jewish leaders, Pilate, and Herod. He was spit on, slapped, mocked, and insulted. And He was sentenced to death. Twice He was whipped until His back was bleeding and raw.

And now it was morning. Prisoners were expected to carry their own crosses to the place of execution. And so, as Jesus was taken out of the court, His cross was laid on His bleeding back.

And then he met Simon.

Jerusalem was full of people. Simon didn't think he had ever seen so many people. *I wonder where everyone is going and what they're looking at?* he thought.

Simon was from the town of Cyrene in northern Africa. The Bible doesn't tell us what he was doing in Jerusalem. Maybe he was in



town to do some business and got caught in the big crowd.

Simon looked where everyone else seemed to be looking. And he saw something horrible—a Man surrounded by four Roman soldiers. The Man had a crown of thorns on His head. His back was bloody. He looked like He was going to faint.

And He was carrying a cross. That meant He was going to be

crucified. *He must have done something horrible*, Simon may have thought. *Only the very worst criminals are crucified.*

Suddenly, the Man fell down. *He's been beaten so much and lost so much blood. He looks almost dead already*, Simon probably thought as he watched. *But this prisoner is different. Most criminals I know about curse and yell and fight. But this Man does nothing. He says nothing. He looks . . . kind.*

As Simon watched, the soldiers talked with one another. The Man didn't even try to get up. Simon felt sorry for Him. Just then a soldier looked around and pushed through the crowd right to Simon. He hit Simon with the flat side of his spear. "Come with me," the soldier said. "You

# The Message

We can help others carry their burdens.

## Memory Verse

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ"

(Galatians 6:2, NIV).

can carry Jesus' cross."

*Jesus! So that's who He is,* Simon thought. He remembered hearing his sons talk about Jesus. They believed in Him.

Simon didn't dare disobey. Any Roman soldier could make anyone do any work. All a soldier had to do was hit a man on the shoulder with the flat side of his spear. The man then had to do what the soldier told him.

Simon picked up the cross and started to walk. A soldier pulled Jesus to His feet again. The cross was heavy. Simon wondered how a beaten man could carry it even a little way.

*And they don't go the shortest way when they take a man to be crucified,* Simon thought. *They want to hurt and shame the person as much as possible.*

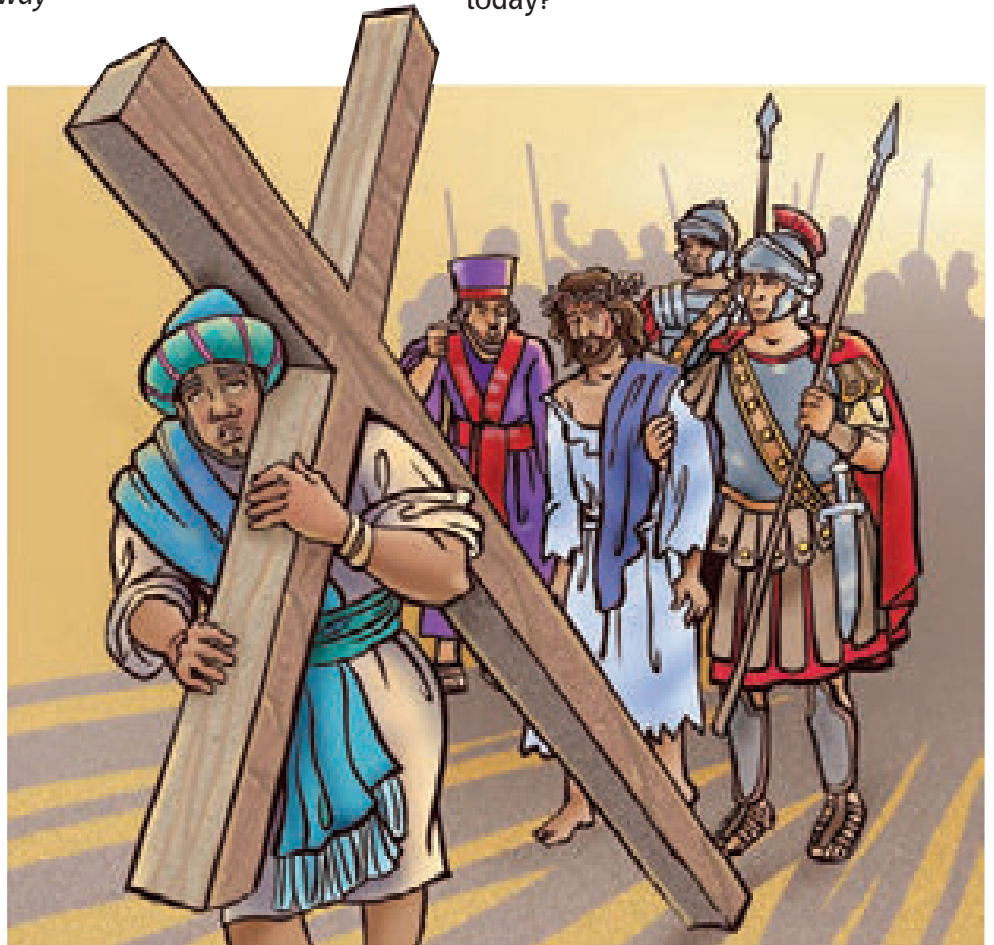
*I'm glad I can help Him. I can't stop what's going to happen, but I can help by carrying His cross.*

Simon must have watched as Jesus was nailed on the cross. He must have heard Him comfort the thief who asked to be remembered when Jesus comes again. He must have heard Jesus forgive the people who hurt Him.

All this must have changed Simon forever. For the rest of his life, Simon would remember

doing something to help Jesus. Simon must have learned about the heavy burden Jesus carried—the weight of the sins of the whole world. And Simon had done something to help the Saviour who died for him.

What can you do to help Jesus today?





Simon was from the city of Cyrene in North Africa. Many Jews lived there.



## SUNDAY

**READ** Read and discuss Mark 15:21 during family worship. Simon had two sons who became Christians before he did. What were their names? Also see Romans 16:13.

**DO** This week, look for ways to help people who are burdened with cares.

## TUESDAY

**DO** During family worship look on a Bible map and find Cyrene, a country in northern Africa. Ask your parents to help you find out:

1. How far was it from Cyrene to Jerusalem?
2. How do you think Simon got there?
3. How long do you think it took him to get there?

## SABBATH

**READ** Read Matthew 27:27-32 with your family. Where was Simon from? Why was he forced to carry Jesus' cross? What kind of burdens do people carry today? How can your family help them?

**DO** Practice saying your memory verse while walking and carrying something heavy. Teach the verse to your family.

## MONDAY

**READ** Read Luke 23:26. What do you think Simon was doing in Jerusalem?

**SHARE** Share the cross you made in Sabbath School with someone who is burdened with problems. (Or draw a cross and write on it "Carry each other's burdens.") Tell them about Simon carrying Jesus' cross.

## WEDNESDAY

**DO** Offer to help someone carry something heavy. Remind them about Simon carrying Jesus' cross.

**DO** Review your memory verse until you can say it without help. Then say it for your family during worship. Tell them how you helped someone today.

**PRAY** Thank God that you are able to help others.



# THURSDAY

**PRAY** During family worship pray for someone who has problems and is sad. How can you help them today? Make a plan and do it.

**SING** Sing "I'm So Happy" (Sing for Joy, No. 65) or "We Are His Hands" (Sing for Joy, No. 129). Then thank Jesus for helping you help others.



# FRIDAY

**DO** Review the lesson and act out the Bible story with your family. Who will be Jesus? the soldier? Simon?

**READ** Read Acts 13:1, another verse that might be about Simon.\*

\* (Parents: You may also want to read *The Desire of Ages*, p. 742 to your child.)

## On the Way to Calvary

# PUZZLE

**Directions:** Beginning with the second letter of each word, cross out every other letter to find out how we show God's love to others. Copy the remaining letters on the lines provided.

Hqewlepr oytuhieorpsa  
csadrfrgyh tjhkelizrx  
bnumrqdwexnzsg

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