

Witnesses of the Passion

Seeing Ourselves in the Characters at the Cross

“The characters who played a role in the drama of the Cross are not just historical personages... They are the embodiment of the attitudes, sins, virtues, and responses of all humanity toward God. Every person who has ever lived can find himself somewhere in the Passion narrative.”

—*Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen*

The Mirror of Humanity

"The characters who played a role in the drama of the Cross are not just historical personages who lived nineteen hundred years ago. They are the embodiment of the attitudes, sins, virtues, and responses of all humanity toward God."

— Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

The Passion is not just a story about **them**.

It is a mirror that reveals **us**.

How We Will Approach This Study

In this study, we will examine the characters of the Passion—not as distant figures, but
as **mirrors of our own souls**.

As we go through the list, reflect on how each of these characters is **alive in you right now**... and consider the personal spiritual application of their choices.

The Challenge

"Do not ask: 'Is this true about Judas?'

*Ask instead: 'Is this true about **me**?'*

And be brave enough to answer honestly."

The Witnesses We Will Examine

THE FAILURES & COMPROMISES

Judas

The Sellout

Peter

The Denier

Pilate

The Compromiser

Herod

The Tourist

Barabbas

The Freed Man

The Thieves

The Choice

THE FAITHFUL & TRANSFORMED

Simon of Cyrene

The Reluctant

John

The Loyal Friend

Mary (Mother)

The One Who Stood

Nicodemus

The Secret Believer

Centurion

The Skeptic

Magdalene

The Witness



The Kiss in the Garden

The garden was quiet. The kind of quiet that comes just before everything breaks. He had eaten with Him that evening. Dipped bread in the same bowl. Heard Him say, "One of you will betray Me." And still, he went. Thirty coins. That was the price. Not a fortune. Not enough to retire on. Just enough to make it feel worth it in the moment. The way every bad deal does. He found Jesus praying in the olive grove. The torches. He found Jesus praying in the olive grove. The torches threw wild shadows across the trees. The soldiers shifted behind him, while, waiting for the signal. And Judas walked up and kissed Him. "Friend," Jesus said. Not traitor. Not thief. Friend. "Why have you come?" That word—friend—would haunt him for the rest of his short life.

"Jesus said to him, 'Friend, why have you come?'" —Matthew 26:50



Judas Iscariot: The Facts

- **Role:** One of the Twelve; Treasurer for the disciples.
- **Key Action:** Betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (price of a slave).
- **The Scene:** Identified Jesus with a kiss in the Garden of Gethsemane.
- **The End:** Returned the money in remorse, then hanged himself.

Scripture: Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50; 27:3-5

The Man Who Sells Out for the Deal

The Modern Archetype

The sales rep who lies to close the deal. The politician who compromises integrity for a vote. The dad selling his family's time for a promotion. "Thirty pieces of silver" isn't one big decision—it's a thousand small compromises.

The Judas Move

Letting shame drive you to isolation instead of repentance.

Your Challenge This Week

1. **Identify the Deal:** What are you selling out for right now? Is it worth the cost?
2. **Run the Right Way:** When you fail, run to grace, not to despair. Call a brother or seek wise counsel today.



The Fire and the Rooster

He swore he wouldn't do it. He was the Rock, "*Even if all fall away, I never will.*"

But then came the cold night, the charcoal fire, and the servant girl. "*You were with Him.*"

"I don't know the man!" His voice cracked like thin ice.

Three times he denied. Then the rooster crowed—piercing the silence like a blade.

And Jesus turned. He didn't shout. He just looked. And in that look, Peter saw the wreckage of his own promise. He ran into the dark, weeping not because he was caught, but because he was loved—and he had broken the heart of the One who loved him most.

"And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord... So Peter went out and wept bitterly." —Luke 22:61–62

Simon Peter: The Facts



- **Role:** Leader of the Twelve; Fisherman; “The Rock.”
- **Key Action:** Denied knowing Jesus three times to save himself.
- **The Scene:** The courtyard of the High Priest, warming himself by a fire.
- **The End:** Wept bitterly, restored by Jesus on the beach (John 21).
- **Scripture:** *Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-27*

The Tough Guy Who Folds

The Modern Archetype

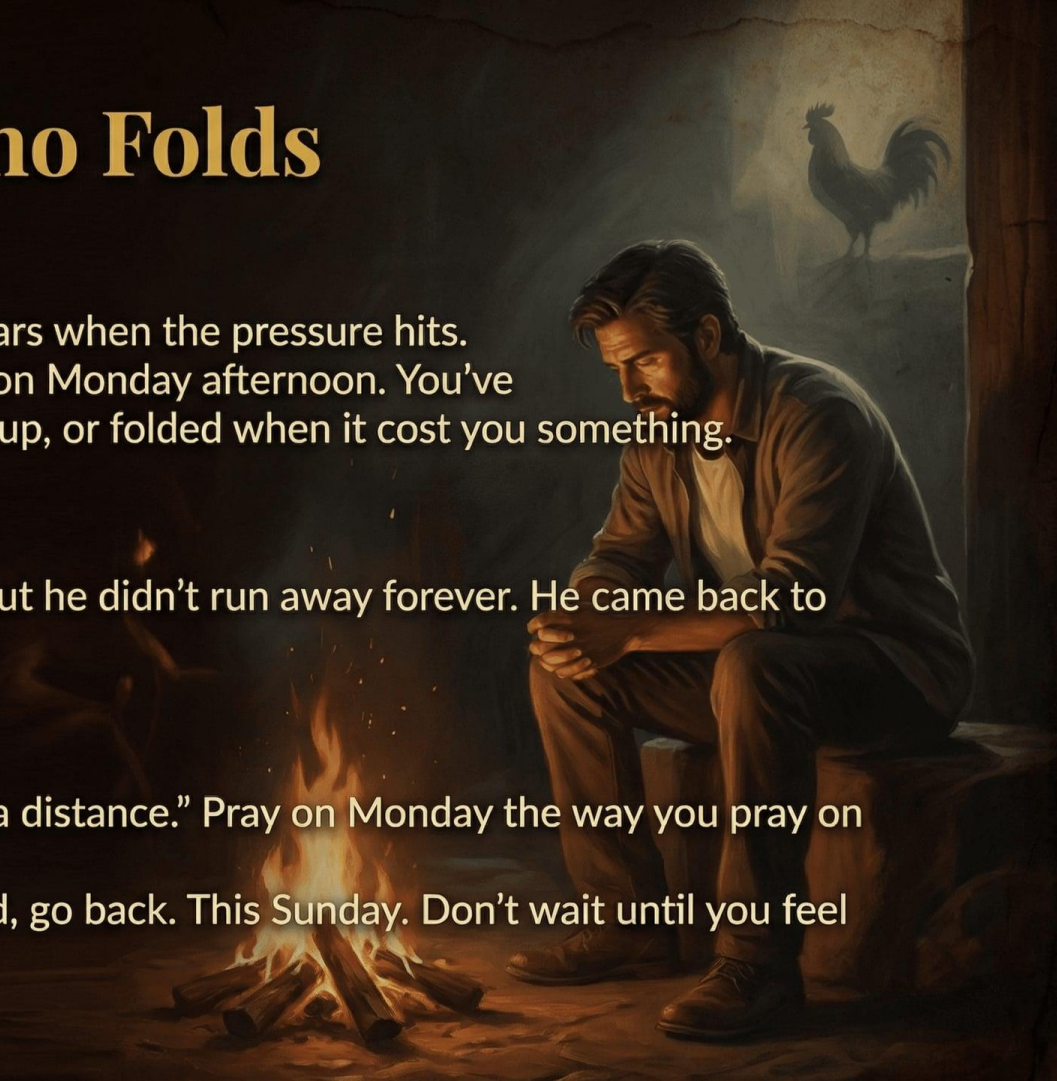
The guy who talks a big game but disappears when the pressure hits. You're bold on Sunday morning but silent on Monday afternoon. You've **gone quiet** when you should have spoken up, or **folded** when it cost you something.

The Peter Move

Thinking your failure is final. Peter wept, but he didn't run away forever. He came back to the fire.

Your Challenge This Week

1. **Close the Distance:** Stop "following at a distance." Pray on Monday the way you pray on Sunday.
2. **Come Back to the Fire:** If you've drifted, go back. This Sunday. Don't wait until you feel worthy.





The Bowl and the Towel

He knew. That was the worst part. He knew the man was innocent.

“I find no fault in him,” he said. Once. Twice. Three times. But the crowd was loud. And Caesar was far away. And his job was on the line.

So he called for a bowl. A simple bronze basin. He dipped his hands in the water, scrubbing them as if the guilt were dirt he could just wash away.

“I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he announced.

But water doesn’t wash away truth. And as he dried his hands on the towel, he looked at the man he was sending to die. Jesus didn’t look angry. He looked... sorry for him.

Pilate kept his job. He kept the peace. But he lost his soul in a basin of water.


“When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.’”

—Matthew 27:24



Pontius Pilate: The Facts

- **Role:** Roman Governor (Prefect) of Judea.
- **Key Action:** Sentenced Jesus to death despite finding “no fault in Him.”
- **The Scene:** The Praetorium trial; the crowd chose Barabbas.
- **The End:** Washed his hands publicly to claim innocence.
- **Scripture:** Matthew 27:11-26; John 18:28-19:16



THE PEOPLE-PLEASER WHO KNOWS BETTER

THE MODERN ARCHETYPE

The middle manager who fires the innocent guy because corporate said so. The politician who polls before he votes. The friend who stays silent when the group mocks someone, because you don't want to be weird.

You know the truth, but you choose the crowd.

THE PILATE MOVE

Washing your hands. Pretending you have no choice when you actually just lack courage.

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK

1. ****Stop Washing Your Hands****: Name the decision you've been avoiding. If you see it, it's your problem. Own it.
2. ****Choose Integrity Over Comfort****: Do the whole right thing this week—not the half-measure that quiets your conscience.

THE SILENT KING

Herod wanted a show. He had heard the stories—
blind men seeing, storms calming, dead men walking.
He wanted to see the magic trick for himself.
“Perform for me,” his eyes said. “Amuse me.”
He asked questions. He prodded. He mocked.
He waited for the sparks.

But Jesus said... nothing.
To the broken, He spoke peace.
To the sinner, He spoke grace.
But to the man who treated God like a court jester,
He gave only silence.

Herod got bored. He dressed the King of Kings in a
costume and sent Him away. He wanted a miracle.
He missed the Savior standing right in front of him.



*“Then he questioned Him with many
words, but He answered him nothing.”*
—Luke 23:9



Herod Antipas: The Facts

- **Role:** Tetrarch of Galilee; Son of Herod the Great.
- **Key Action:** Treated Jesus with contempt and mocked Him.
- **The Scene:** Jesus was sent to him by Pilate; Herod hoped to see a miracle performed.
- **The End:** Found no guilt in Jesus but dressed Him in a gorgeous robe to ridicule Him.

Luke 23:6-12

THE SPIRITUAL TOURIST

THE MODERN ARCHETYPE

The guy who treats church like Netflix. You consume faith—podcasts, books, conferences—but you don't let it change you. You're interested in Jesus, but not committed to Him. You want the feeling, but not the obedience.

THE HEROD MOVE

Treating God as a vending machine for miracles or entertainment. When He doesn't perform, you get bored and change the channel.

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK

- 1. STOP SPECTATING:** After every sermon or study, ask: "What will I do differently this week?" Then do it.
- 2. MAKE A COSTLY DECISION:** Give up something you love for a week to focus on prayer.

The Empty Cell



The cell was dark. The air smelled of rust and fear. He knew how this ended. The cross was waiting.

Then the footsteps came. The key turned. The door swung open. He braced himself for the soldiers. For the whip.

Instead, he heard the crowd. Screaming his name.
Barabbas! Barabbas!

He thought they were calling for his death.

“Go,” the soldier said. “You’re free.”

“Why?”

“The crowd chose you. The other one takes your place.”

He walked out into the blinding sun, past the man from Nazareth. The innocent one who would die so the guilty one could go free.

“Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.”

—Matthew 27:26

Barabbas: The Facts



Role

- Notorious prisoner
- Insurrectionist
- Murderer

Key Action

- Released by Pilate instead of Jesus at the crowd's demand

The Scene

- The Praetorium; the crowd shouting "Give us Barabbas!"

The End

- Walked free while Jesus took his cross.

Scripture: Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15

The Man Who Got a Second Chance

The Modern Archetype

The guy who survived the heart attack, the layoff, or the divorce. You were in a cell, and the door opened. You've been given freedom you didn't earn. But now, you're drifting back to the old life. You're forgetting what you were saved from.

The Barabbas Move

Taking grace for granted. Walking out of the cell and never looking back at the One who took your place.

Your Challenge This Week

1. **Remember the Cell:** Write down what God saved you from. Read it every morning this week.
2. **Live Like a Freed Man:** Stop performing for God. He already loves you. Let gratitude—not guilt—drive your choices.

Three Crosses, Two Choices

They were both guilty. They were both dying. They were both inches from God. At first, they both cursed Him. “If you are the Christ, save yourself and us!”

But then, something shifted. One thief looked at the man in the middle. He saw the blood, the crown, the sign. But mostly, he saw the silence. The forgiveness. He stopped fighting. He turned his head. “Lord,” he whispered. Not ‘Teacher.’ Not ‘Miracle Worker.’ Lord. “Remember me.”

In the last hour of his life, he stole the only thing that mattered. Paradise.

“Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’” —Luke 23:42-43





The Two Thieves: The Facts

- **Role:** Criminals crucified with Jesus; traditionally named Dismas (Good) and Gestas (Bad).
- **Key Action:** One mocked Jesus; the other rebuked the mocker and asked for mercy.
- **The Scene:** Golgotha (The Place of the Skull).
- **The End:** Jesus promised the penitent thief: “Today you will be with Me in Paradise.”
- **Scripture:** *Luke 23:39-43*

The Fork in the Road

The Modern Archetype

The moment when suffering forces you to choose. You're in pain—a diagnosis, a divorce, a loss. You can either get bitter (the Bad Thief) or get humble (the Good Thief). The cross is the same; the reaction is the choice.

The Thief's Move

Using your last breath to ask for grace. It's never too late.

Your Challenge This Week

1. Name the Bitterness: Who are you angry at? Say it out loud to God. He can handle it.
2. Choose Tender Over Tough: Let this trial soften you, not harden you. Call someone you've pushed away.



The Man Who Was Drafted

He didn't come to Jerusalem to be a hero. He came to celebrate the Passover.

He was just a face in the crowd. A man from the country.

Then the soldier's hand grabbed his shoulder.

"You. Carry it."

It wasn't a request. It was a draft.

He hated it. The wood was heavy. The blood was real. The shame of walking with a criminal was burning his face.

But then he looked at the Man he was helping. He saw the eyes of God looking back at him through the blood.

And somewhere on that road, the burden became a blessing. He carried the cross for a mile, but the Cross carried him for eternity.

"Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross."—Mark 15:21



Simon of Cyrene: The Facts

- **Role:** Jewish pilgrim from Cyrene (North Africa).
- **Key Action:** Compelled by Roman soldiers to carry Jesus's cross.
- **The Scene:** The Via Dolorosa, on the way to Golgotha.
- **The End:** His sons Alexander and Rufus became known believers (Mark 15:21; Romans 16:13).

*Scripture: Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21;
Luke 23:26*

The Man Carrying a Load He Didn't Choose

The Modern Archetype:

The caregiver. The parent of a special-needs child. The spouse dealing with a partner's addiction. You didn't volunteer for this cross. It was forced on you. You're tired, you're resentful, and you're wondering why God let this happen.

The Simon Move:

Carrying the cross with resentment instead of purpose.

Your Challenge This Week:

1. **Stop Resenting the Weight:** This cross is shaping you into someone you couldn't become any other way.
2. **Remember Who's Beside You:** Christ carried it first. You are not alone. Tell Him that today.

The One Who Stayed

Peter ran. Thomas hid. Judas was gone.

But John stayed.

He wasn't the oldest. He wasn't the boldest.
He was just the one who knew he was loved.

He stood in the blood. He heard the insults.
He watched the lungs of God collapse.

And because he stayed, he received the greatest gift.
"Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother."

*"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother...
When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple
whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother,
"Woman, behold your son!"*" —John 19:25-26





John the Beloved: The Facts

- **Role:** One of the Twelve; “The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved.”
- **Key Action:** The only male disciple who stayed at the Cross.
- **The Scene:** Standing with Mary, Jesus’s mother.
- **The End:** Entrusted with caring for Mary; later exiled to Patmos.
- **Scripture:** *John 19:25-27; 21:20-24*

THE FRIEND WHO SHOWS UP

A MODERN APPLICATION SLIDE FOR JOHN THE BELOVED

THE MODERN ARCHETYPE

The friend who doesn't have the answers but has the presence. When everyone else runs, you stay. You understand that loyalty isn't complicated: you just show up and refuse to leave.

THE JOHN MOVE

Standing at the foot of the cross when it was dangerous and heartbreaking. He didn't fix it. He just witnessed it.

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK

1. **Be Someone's John:** Identify one person who needs you to show up this week. Go. Don't wait for the right words.
2. **Simplify Your Faith:** Love the person next to you. That's the whole thing.

The Sword and the Standing

Thirty-three years earlier, an old man named Simeon told her: “A sword will pierce through your own soul also.”

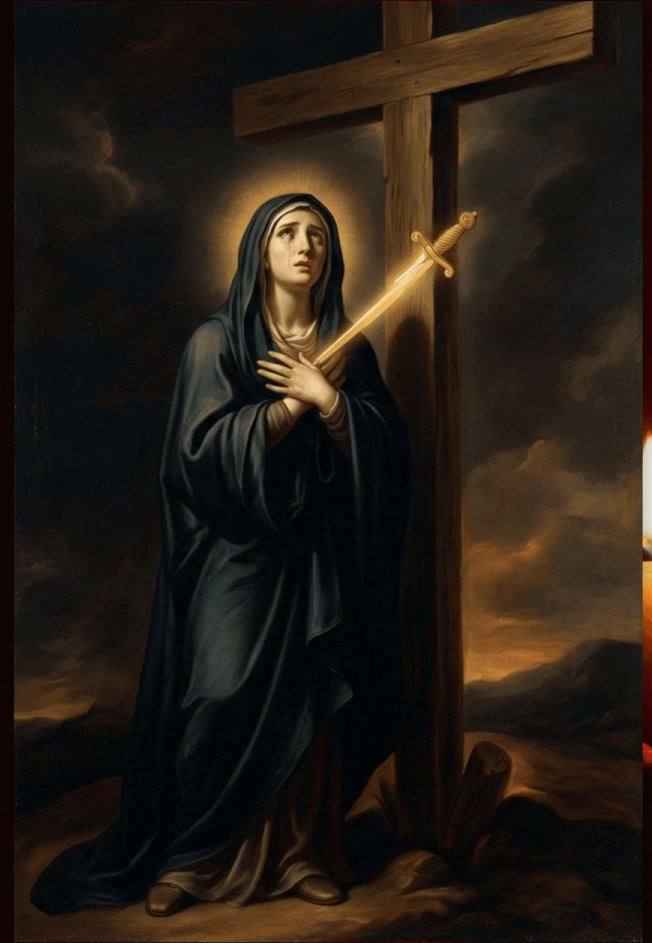
She probably didn’t understand it then. She understood it now.

Every nail. Every breath. Every drop of blood. It was happening to Him, but it was piercing her.

But here is the miracle: She didn’t collapse. She didn’t run. She didn’t look away.

The Gospel says she *stood*. In the face of the worst pain a mother can know, she remained. A silent, shattering witness to the love of her Son.

Key Verse: “*Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother...*” —**John 19:25**



Mary, Mother of Jesus: The Facts

Biblical Profile



- **Role:** The Mother of Jesus.
- **Key Action:** Stood at the foot of the Cross when most disciples fled.
- **The Scene:** Golgotha; Jesus entrusted her to John.
- **The End:** Witnessed the death and resurrection; present at Pentecost.

“Luke 2:34-35; John 19:25-27”

The Parent Who Has to Watch

A lit candle in a holder and an open book on a dark surface.

The Modern Archetype

The parent watching a child self-destruct. The spouse sitting by a hospital bed. You are standing in a pain you cannot fix. You want to run, or you want to control it, but you can't do either.

The Mary Move

Standing. She didn't collapse. She didn't flee. She stood.

Your Challenge This Week

1. **Stop Trying to Fix It:** Your presence is not nothing—it is everything. Just stand.
2. **Trust That Sunday Is Coming:** Mary didn't understand the Resurrection on Friday. Trust the timeline.



FROM NIGHT TO NOON

He was a ruler. A teacher. A man with a reputation to protect. So when he first came to Jesus, he came under the cover of darkness. He had questions, but he also had fear. He wanted the truth, but he wanted his status too.

But then came the Cross. The disciples had fled. The crowds had turned. It was the most dangerous moment to be a friend of the Nazarene.

And that's when Nicodemus stepped out of the shadows. He didn't come at night this time. He came in the bright, brutal light of day, carrying a hundred pounds of spices for a King's burial. He risked everything when everyone else was risking nothing.

“And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.” —John 19:39



Nicodemus: The Facts

- **Role:** Pharisee; Member of the Sanhedrin; “The Teacher of Israel.”
- **Key Action:** Came to Jesus by night; later brought 100 pounds of spices for burial.
- **The Scene:** The secret night interview (John 3) and the burial (John 19).
- **The End:** Publicly identified with Jesus in His death when the disciples had fled.
- **Scripture:** *John 3:1-21; 7:50-52; 19:39-42*

THE CLOSET CHRISTIAN

The Modern Archetype:

The believer who lives undercover. Your faith is real, but it's hidden—on the plane, at the office, in your neighborhood. You don't want to be “that guy.” You're waiting for the perfect, safe moment to speak up.

The Nicodemus Move:

Thinking you can follow the Light while staying in the shadows.

Your Challenge This Week:

- **1. Tell One Person:** This week, tell someone: “My faith matters to me.” Not a sermon—just the truth.
- **2. Step Into Daylight:** The right time to go public is when it costs you something. That's how you know it's real.





The Tomb He Gave Away

He was a good man. A just man. A rich man. But he was also a quiet man. He sat on the council that condemned Jesus, and though he didn't vote for it, he didn't stop it. He was a disciple "secretly, for fear of the Jews."

But when Jesus died, something in Joseph woke up. He went to Pilate. He didn't send a servant. He went himself. He asked for the body of the criminal. It was a death sentence for his reputation. It was treason against his peers. But he didn't care anymore. He took the body down. He wrapped it in linen. And he laid the King of Kings in his own brand-new tomb.

"Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member... took courage and went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus." —Mark 15:43



Joseph of Arimathea: The Facts

- **Role:** Wealthy member of the Sanhedrin; “A good and just man.”
- **Key Action:** Asked Pilate for Jesus’s body and buried Him in his own new tomb.
- **The Scene:** The burial of Jesus.
- **The End:** Risked his position to honor Jesus in death.
- **Scripture:** *Matthew 27:57-60; Luke 23:50-53*

THE GOOD MAN WHO STAYED QUIET TOO LONG

THE MODERN ARCHETYPE:

The man who disagrees in his heart but consents with his silence. You're a good man—you don't join in the mockery, you don't cheat, you don't lie. But you don't speak up either. You're a secret disciple because you're afraid of what it will cost you at work or in your social circle.

THE JOSEPH MOVE:

Thinking that private goodness is enough. It isn't.

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK:

1. **BREAK THE SILENCE:** What are you not saying that needs to be said? Say it this week. To the person who needs to hear it.
2. **GIVE YOUR TOMB:** Do something public and sacrificial that makes your convictions unmistakable.





THE LAST MIRACLE

He was just doing his job. He was a servant of the High Priest. He came with a torch and a club because he was told to.

Then the sword flashed. Pain exploded. Blood ran down his neck.

He expected the next blow to kill him.

Instead, he felt a hand. Not a fist. A hand.

The Man he came to arrest touched the wound. And the pain vanished. The blood stopped. The ear was whole.

Jesus's last act before His hands were bound was to heal the enemy who came to bind them.

Key Verse: "And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, 'Permit even this.' And He touched his ear and healed him." —Luke 22:50-51



MALCHUS: THE FACTS

- **ROLE:**
Servant of the High Priest Caiaphas.
- **KEY ACTION:**
Came to arrest Jesus; had his right ear cut off by Peter.
- **THE SCENE:**
The Garden of Gethsemane.
- **THE END:**
Healed instantly by Jesus—the last miracle before the Cross.
- **SCRIPTURE:**
Luke 22:50-51; John 18:10-11

The Man Who Got Grace He Didn't Deserve

The Modern Archetype:

The skeptic. The antagonist. The person who has been “cut” by the church (Peter’s sword) and assumes Jesus is the same as His followers.

You came looking for a fight, or maybe just doing your job, and you found a Healer instead.

The Malchus Move:

Walking away healed but unchanged. We never hear of Malchus again.

Don't let the miracle be the end of the story.

Your Challenge This Week:

- 1. Forgive the Peters:**
Forgive the Christians who hurt you. They were acting in fear, not in Christ.
- 2. Drop Your Weapons:**
You can't fight a God who heals His enemies. Surrender your arguments and just say “Thank you.”



The Confession at the Cross

He was a professional dealer of death. He had overseen a hundred crucifixions. It was just another Tuesday in the empire. But this one was different.

The sky turned black at noon. The earth shook like a frightened animal. The rocks split.

But it wasn't the earthquake that broke him. It was the Man. He didn't curse. He didn't beg. He forgave. And when He died, He didn't just stop breathing—He dismissed His spirit.

The soldier looked at the corpse of the carpenter and saw the glory of a King.

“So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, ‘Truly this Man was the Son of God!’” —Mark 15:39



The Centurion: The Facts

- **Role:** Roman Centurion (commander of 100 soldiers).
- **Key Action:** Oversaw the crucifixion; witnessed the earthquake and darkness.
- **The Scene:** At the foot of the Cross when Jesus died.
- **The End:** Confessed, “Truly this Man was the Son of God!”
- **Scripture:** *Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47*

THE SKEPTIC WHO COULDN'T LOOK AWAY

A Modern Application: The Roman Centurion

THE MODERN ARCHETYPE:

The analytical mind. The skeptic. The person who needs hard evidence. You've seen it all—corruption, hypocrisy, weakness. You're cynical about religion. But something about Jesus haunts you. You can't explain Him away. The way He loves, the way He dies—it doesn't fit your categories.

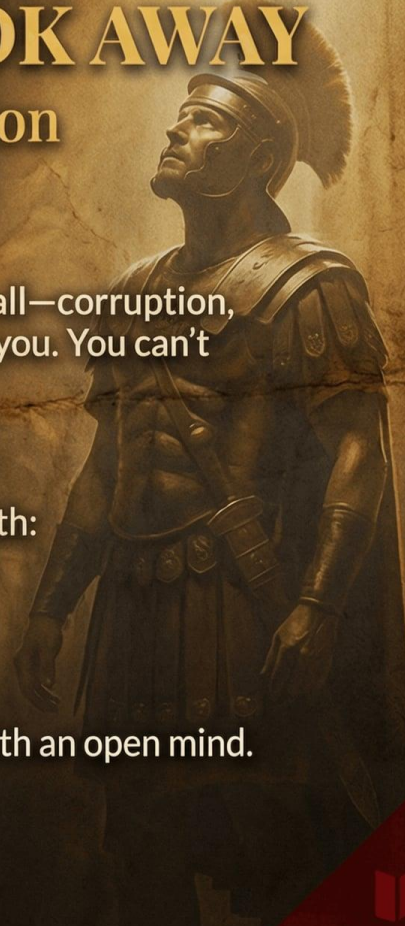
THE CENTURION MOVE:

Moving from observation to confession. He saw the evidence and followed it to the truth:

“Truly this was the Son of God.”

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK:

1. **Look Closer:** Don't just analyze Jesus from a distance. Read one Gospel this week with an open mind.
2. **State Your Conclusion:** If He is who He says He is, what does that demand of you?



The Woman Who Wouldn't Leave

She had every reason to give up. He was dead. The dream was over. The others were hiding behind locked doors.

But she couldn't stay away.

She came to the tomb while it was still dark. She came to weep. She came to honor the body of the Man who had given her back her life.

And because she showed up when it was dark, **she was the first to see the Light.**

"Mary," He said.

One word. And the world changed forever. The Apostle to the Apostles was the woman who refused to let death have the last word.

"Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to Him, 'Rabboni!' (which is to say, Teacher)." —John 20:16





Mary Magdalene: The Facts

- **Role:** Follower of Jesus; “Apostle to the Apostles.”
- **Key Action:** Delivered from seven demons; supported Jesus’s ministry.
- **The Scene:** At the Cross; at the Tomb; first to see the Risen Lord.
- **The End:** Commissioned by Jesus to tell the disciples He had risen.

Scripture: Luke 8:2; John 19:25; 20:1-18

The Person Whose Past Became Their Platform

The Modern Archetype

The person with a “messy” testimony.

You’ve got a **past**—addiction, broken relationships, a reputation.

You think your history disqualifies you from serving

God. You sit in the back row hoping no one asks about about your story.

The Magdalene Move

Hiding your scars.

Mary didn’t hide. Her deliverance was her **credential**.

She was the **first preacher of the Resurrection** because she knew what it meant to be dead.

Your Challenge This Week

1. **Own Your Story:** Stop hiding where you came from. Your scars are proof of His healing.
2. **Be the First Witness:** Tell one person this week: “I was [this], but Jesus made me [this].” That is the most powerful sermon you can preach.



“THE LOCKED DOOR”

They swore they would die with Him. “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” they said.

But when the soldiers came, they ran. They left their cloaks. They left their dignity. They left their Lord.

Now the door is locked. The windows are shuttered. They are huddled in the dark, terrified that the next sound will be a Roman fist pounding on the wood.

But the knock never comes.

Instead, He comes. Through the locked door. Through the shame. Through the fear.

He doesn't bring a rebuke. He shows them His hands and says the one thing they didn't expect: “Peace be with you.”

Key Verse: *“Then, the same day at evening... when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’”*

—John 20:19



The Ten Who Ran: The Facts

- **Role:** The remaining Apostles (excluding Judas and John).
- **Key Action:** "Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled."
- **The Scene:** The Garden of Gethsemane at the moment of arrest.
- **The End:** Hid behind locked doors until the Risen Jesus appeared to them.
- **Scripture:** *Matthew 26:56; Mark 14:50; John 20:19*

THE MEN WHO CAME BACK

THE MODERN ARCHETYPE

The person who failed big. You made a promise to God and broke it. You ran when things got hard. Now you're hiding in shame, thinking you're disqualified. You think the door is locked to keep you out.

THE DISCIPLE MOVE

Locking the door. Thinking your failure is stronger than His peace.

YOUR CHALLENGE THIS WEEK

1. Unlock the Door

Stop hiding from God. He isn't coming to scold you; He's coming to breathe on you.



2. Get Back in the Room

Go to church this Sunday. Not because you're worthy, but because that's where the family is.



A man in a dark robe is kneeling on a stone floor in a dimly lit, arched stone room. He is facing a large, ornate mirror that reflects a glowing cross with a crown of thorns. The scene is lit by several candles, creating a solemn and contemplative atmosphere.

WHICH CHARACTER ARE YOU?

The Cross is a mirror.
We have seen the betrayer, the denier,
the coward, and the faithful.
Where do you stand today?

Take the **Lenten Character Assessment**
to find your place in the story.

*Lord, I see myself in the shadows of
Your Passion. I have run, I have hidden,
I have denied. But today, I come back.
Not with excuses, but with a plea:
Remember me. Amen.*