



SPIRITUAL LIFE MESSAGE

Song: *The Old Rugged Cross*

Prayer: *As The Spirit Leads*

Scripture: [The Gospels]

Meditation: *The Ultimate Sacrifice*

Whether you call it Resurrection Sunday or Easter Sunday, for a Christian, it is the most important day in time. It's a day of thankfulness, gratitude and rejoicing. This is the day that confirmed our inheritance of eternal life. It's the day, Jesus arose from the dead and went back to His Father in heaven.

However, three days before this glorious day, Jesus, a man guilty of no crime, was subjected to the most embarrassing form of capital punishment of the time, crucifixion. After being nailed to a cross made of rough pieces of wood, Jesus suffered a slow death of asphyxiation, excruciating pain and torture. This innocent man, the Son of God, who had the power to avoid this brutal death chose to hang on that cross and allow His blood to be the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world.

When I reflect on the passages of scripture in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John that tell of the trial, conviction and execution of Jesus, I cannot help but thank our Triune God for sending the Son to sacrifice His life for my sins. The scriptures, along with the many hymns and songs that focus on His death and resurrection are strong reminders of the love the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have for me and all mankind.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, thank you for sending your Son to dwell among men and die on the cross to save us from our sins. Help us as we strive to live a life that is pleasing in your sight. Let our hearts be open to the guidance of your Holy Spirit, and help us to be obedient to the instructions you have given in your Word.

Challenge: During this month, read the verses of hymns and songs that tell of Jesus' death and resurrection, and reflect on the sacrifice He made so that you may have eternal life. The verses of two songs have been included.

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old Cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

Oh, that old rugged Cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary

In the old rugged Cross, stain'd with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For the dear Lamb of God, left his Glory above
To pardon and sanctify me

To the old rugged Cross, I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where his glory forever I'll share

Refrain:
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.

HE AROSE

Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus, my Savior,
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus, my Lord!

Vainly they watch His bed,
Jesus, my Savior;
Vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus, my Lord!

Death cannot keep his Prey,
Jesus, my Savior;
He tore the bars away,
Jesus, my Lord!

Refrain:
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes,
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Hallelujah! Christ arose!

POLISHING YOUR COMMUNICATION POWER

1. Milieu 2. Vesper 3. Hostel 4. Gall

- a. ___ evening prayer
- b. ___ something bitter to endure
- c. ___ the physical or social setting in which something occurs or develops
- d. ___ lodging facility that typically has dormitory-style sleeping arrangements and sometimes offers meals and planned activities

Last Month Answers

1.c 2.b 3.a