



Read: Today the walk up Calvary's mountain begins. This journey can be not only spiritually, but emotionally and physically taxing. Consider how long it has been and all that has happened since Jesus led his disciples to the garden of Gethsemane. Read [Matthew 27:31](#)—one simple verse and only steps left to go.

In our journey with Jesus we see our need and his abundant provision. Read [1 Timothy 1:15-17](#) quietly as you ponder Jesus' steps down the Via Dolorosa...the way of pain. Read it again and open your heart to the word or phrase Jesus has for you today.

Think: Review the passage again and ponder the word or phrase that stands out to you. What do you see of God's nature in this? What do you see about his heart for people? For you? Turn this word or phrase over and over in your mind—gently, like a fragile treasure.

Pray: Ask the Holy Spirit to impart God's message for you from this passage. What is he inviting you to consider? To do? To know? Open your heart and ask him to write his love deeply within you.

Rest: Sit quietly with what you have heard or sensed or experienced. Let all other thoughts go, except the reality of God's presence here and now, with you. Let him love you. If it helps, play worship music in the background. If your mind gets distracted, gently whisper "I receive your love" or "I love you, Lord."

At the head of the procession of life, then, is a thorn-crowned Man, his pains healing our pains, his wounds answering our wounds, his love taking our sin.

Earl Stanley Jones