



SUMMIT HEIGHTS

METHODIST CHURCH

FIVEDAY DEVOTIONAL

Anchored: Crucified

Isaiah 53:56

Pastor Chris Howlett

March 23, 2025

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Day 1: Love That Bled

Scripture:

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

— Romans 5:8 (NIV)

The cross is not a reaction—it’s a revelation. It shows us who God is: a God who does not wait for us to get our act together, but moves toward us even while we’re lost in sin. Jesus didn’t die for the cleaned-up version of you—he died for you as you are. His love isn’t based on your performance; it’s based on his character.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Romans 5:8 teach you about God’s love?
2. How do you feel knowing Jesus died for you at your worst?
3. Are you ever tempted to think you have to earn God’s love?
4. What might change in your life if you truly embraced grace?
5. Who in your life needs to hear about this kind of love?

Day 2: The Price of Peace

Scripture:

“He himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.”

— Ephesians 2:14 (NIV)

The cross didn’t just purchase forgiveness—it made peace. Peace between us and God. Peace between us and others. Jesus took every dividing wall—every failure, every sin, every grudge—and tore it down with his own body. At the cross, enemies become family, strangers become brothers, and we find peace we could never manufacture on our own.

Reflection Questions:

1. What barriers has Jesus broken down in your life?
2. How does the cross bring peace to your relationship with God?
3. Is there someone you need to forgive because Jesus forgave you?
4. How can you be a peacemaker today?
5. What does it mean to you that Jesus is your peace?

Day 3: The Cross and the Curse

Scripture:

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.’”

— Galatians 3:13 (NIV)

On the cross, Jesus took more than pain—he took the curse. According to the law, hanging on a tree was a sign of divine judgment. Jesus stepped into that place for us, willingly taking the penalty so we could walk in freedom. He absorbed our guilt, carried our shame, and wore the judgment that belonged to us. Because he took the curse, we receive the blessing.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus became a curse for you?
2. How does that impact the way you view your sin?
3. What guilt or shame might you still be carrying that Jesus already bore?
4. How does the cross redefine your identity?
5. What would it look like to live in the freedom Jesus purchased?

Day 4: A Better Sacrifice

Scripture:

“But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.”

— Hebrews 10:12 (NIV)

In the Old Testament, priests offered sacrifices over and over again because sin was never fully dealt with. But Jesus, the great High Priest, offered himself once for all. When he cried, “It is finished,” he meant it. No more striving, no more rituals—just rest in the finality of his perfect work. He sat down because the job was done.

Reflection Questions:

1. What’s the difference between the sacrifices of the old covenant and Jesus’ sacrifice?
2. How does Jesus’ “once for all” sacrifice bring you confidence?
3. Are you still trying to “earn” your way into God’s favor?
4. What does it mean for you to rest in what Jesus already finished?
5. How does this verse help you anchor your faith?

Day 5: Crucified with Christ

Scripture:

“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

— Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

The cross isn't just something Jesus did for you—it's something that changes you from the inside out. When you place your faith in him, your old self dies, and a new life begins. You're no longer defined by your past or your performance. You are now defined by Christ who lives in you. You don't have to carry the weight of proving yourself anymore—you get to live by faith in the One who gave himself for you.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to be “crucified with Christ”?
2. How has your identity changed because of the cross?
3. In what ways are you still trying to live in your own strength?
4. How can you practice living by faith in Jesus daily?
5. What would your life look like if Christ fully lived through you?