**Title: Three Days of Easter**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister**

**1 Peter 2:21**

*God has called you to endure suffering because Christ suffered for you. He also left you an example so that you could follow in his footsteps.*

1. **Friday: The day of pain.**

**Matthew 26:36-39**

*“Jesus took his disciples with him to Gethsemane and said ‘Stay here with me while I pray.’ Then he took Peter, James, and John a little further. He was filled with anguish and deep distress, and he said to them, ‘My heart is so overwhelmed and crushed with sorrow that I feel like I’m dying. Just sit here and watch with me.’ Then Jesus took a few more steps, fell to the ground and prayed…”*

**Mark 14:35-36**

*“Jesus fell face down on the ground and prayed that if possible, he would not have to suffer the pain ahead of him. He prayed ‘Abba! Father! I know you can do all things. And I don’t want to have to drink this cup of suffering. Nevertheless, I want your will, not mine, to be done.’”*

***Mark 15:33-39***

*33At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. 34Then at three o’clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”*

*35Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. 36One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. “Wait!” he said. “Let’s see whether Elijah comes to take him down!”*

*37Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. 38And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.*

*39When the Roman officerwho stood facing himsaw how he had died, he exclaimed, “This man truly was the Son of God!”*

1. **Saturday: The day of confusion and waiting.**
2. **Sunday: The day of resurrection and joy!**

**John 11:25-26**

*Jesus said, ‘I AM the resurrection and the life! Whoever believes in me, even though they die, will live again. I give them eternal life for believing in me and they will never perish!’”*

**Ephesians 1:19-20**

*I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great his power is to help those who believe him. It is that same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead.*

***Romans 10:9-13***

*9If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. 13For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”*

**Helpful Resources:**

Gary Habermas and Michael Licona, *The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus*

Lee Strobel, *The Case for the Resurrection*

N. T. Wright, *The Resurrection of the Son of God*

A 750-page treatment of the subject by a brilliant Oxford PhD

Wright also wrote an influential paper on the history of the resurrection:

<http://ntwrightpage.com/2016/07/12/jesus-resurrection-and-christian-origins>