

He Took My Place

A five-day devotional journey through Romans 5:6-11

At the Cross

He Took My Place - A five-day journey through the cross, helping you move from facing your need to resting in Christ's finished work.

Introduction

Sunday's message reminded you that the cross is personal: Jesus did not merely die; He took your place. This week will help you linger there a little longer. You will move from facing your need, to receiving His love, to resting in His finished work, and then walking with peace.

This Week's Journey

Day	Focus
Monday	Your Helpless Condition Come to Christ honestly, admitting that you do not have the strength to save yourself.
Tuesday	Your Ungodly Drift Notice where God has been pushed to the margins and surrender those places back to Him.
Wednesday	God's Initiating Love Rest in the truth that God loved you and moved toward you while you were still a sinner.
Thursday	Christ's Substitution Stand at the cross and remember that Jesus took your place, bore your guilt, and paid your penalty.
Friday	Your New Standing in Christ Rejoice that because Jesus took your place, you now have peace with God, assurance in grace, and reason to praise.

5-7 MINUTES EACH DAY | READ SLOWLY, PRAY HONESTLY, RESPOND PERSONALLY

When You Have Nothing Left

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:1-5

Reflection

You do not begin the Christian life by bringing strength to God. You begin by admitting you have none. Paul says you were weak, unable to rescue yourself, unable to clean up your own heart, unable to make peace with God by effort or sincerity. That is hard on human pride, because you want to believe you can fix what is broken. But grace starts where self-reliance ends. The good news is not that Jesus helps strong people do a little better. The good news is that He comes for people who cannot save themselves at all. When you finally stop pretending you are enough, you are not disqualified from mercy; you are positioned to receive it. Your weakness does not scare Jesus away. It is the very place where His saving power meets you. Today, let your need drive you to Christ instead of deeper into frustration or denial.

Application Question

Where are you still trying to prove your strength instead of honestly bringing your weakness to Christ?

PAUSE FOR PRAYER: ASK THE LORD TO MAKE TODAY'S TRUTH PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL IN YOUR LIFE.

When God Is on the Margins

Scripture Reading

Romans 1:21-25

Reflection

Ungodliness is not only loud rebellion; sometimes it is quiet neglect. It is living as though God matters on Sunday but not much on Monday. It is wanting His help without wanting His rule. Romans says Christ died for the ungodly, which means He came for people who had pushed God to the edges of their lives. That is sobering, but also hopeful. Jesus does not wait for reverence to appear before He moves toward you. He comes to awaken it. He steps into hearts that have been distracted, self-directed, and slow to bow. This devotional is an invitation to honest worship. Where have you been managing life as though everything depends on you? Where have you wanted God's benefits without surrender? The cross lovingly confronts that posture. It reminds you that you were made not to receive from God, but to know Him, honor Him, and belong to Him.

Application Question

What part of your life right now reveals that you want God's blessings more than God Himself?

PAUSE FOR PRAYER: ASK THE LORD TO MAKE TODAY'S TRUTH PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL IN YOUR LIFE.

Loved Before You Changed

Scripture Reading

1 John 4:9-14

Reflection

The wonder of the gospel is not that God loved you after you improved. It is that He loved you while you were still a sinner. That means His love is not fragile, moody, or earned. It is steady, holy, and initiating. You may be used to relationships where affection rises and falls with performance. If so, grace can feel unfamiliar. But Romans 5 tells you that God moved first. He did not stand back waiting for you to become worthy. He sent His Son when you were still wrong, still resisting, still unable to save yourself. That kind of love humbles you, because it removes all boasting. It steadies you, because your hope rests on God's character, not your record. Today, answer shame with the cross: the God who moved toward you in your sin will not stop loving His own, and He will keep drawing you near today.

Application Question

How would your prayer life change if you truly believed God's love for you began in His grace, not in your performance?

PAUSE FOR PRAYER: ASK THE LORD TO MAKE TODAY'S TRUTH PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL IN YOUR LIFE.

He Stood Where You Should Stand

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Reflection

At the center of the cross is a holy exchange. Jesus did not simply die near sin; He died for sinners. He stepped into your place, took your guilt, bore your shame, and satisfied the judgment you could never survive. That is why the cross is more than an example of love. It is rescue. It is substitution. The sinless One stood where the guilty should stand so the guilty could be welcomed as righteous. This is where the gospel becomes personal. It is one thing to admire Jesus. It is another to trust Him as the One who carried what belonged to you. Today, stop trying to pay for what Christ has already covered. Stop rehearsing charges His blood has already answered. Stand beneath the cross long enough to say it with gratitude: He took my place, and because He took my place, I can finally stand in grace.

Application Question

What accusation or burden are you still carrying that you need to lay down at the cross and leave with Jesus?

PAUSE FOR PRAYER: ASK THE LORD TO MAKE TODAY'S TRUTH PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL IN YOUR LIFE.

Peace That Holds You

Scripture Reading

Romans 5:1-5

Reflection

Because Jesus took your place, you do not have to live every day wondering where you stand with God. In Christ, your position has changed. You are justified, welcomed, and at peace with God. That peace is not the absence of trouble; it is the presence of settled acceptance. You may still fight fear, carry burdens, and walk through hard seasons, but wrath is no longer hanging over you. Your life is no longer defined by condemnation, but by grace. Even better, the Savior who died for you now lives for you. He keeps you, intercedes for you, and will not let you go. So this week does not end with reflection. It ends with assurance and praise. You can face today with a steadier heart because Christ's finished work and living presence are working in your favor. Rest there. Rejoice there. And then walk into the weekend with gratitude.

Application Question

What would it look like for you to live today like someone who is fully accepted by God through Christ?

PAUSE FOR PRAYER: ASK THE LORD TO MAKE TODAY'S TRUTH PERSONAL AND PRACTICAL IN YOUR LIFE.

Weekend Reflection

As you move toward the weekend, carry this truth with you: Jesus did not only die near you - He died for you and now lives to keep you. Come back to worship ready to thank Him with His people, and consider sharing with someone at church which part of the cross has met you most deeply this week.

PREPARED FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE: HE TOOK MY PLACE (ROMANS 5:6-11)