



Harmonychurch.life

Each month we have a special memory verse and Life App. All of our stories revolve around those.

This month's Memory Verse is:

**"Don't ever get tired of doing what is good."
2 Thessalonians 3:13**

This month's life app is

**Conviction
"Standing up for what's right even when others don't."**

Our basic truth, that never changes is that

"I can trust God no matter what."

Each week, we have a different bottom line that goes with our story.

This week's bottom line is;

"Jesus showed us how to stand up for what is right"

Our story for this week is 'Stand by me'. (Matthew 26:36-46)

** Hello, everyone! For the next few weeks, we are going to talk about heroes. I know a lot of people immediately think "Super" heroes. However, when I think of heroic moments, I like to think of things real people have done. There is a story that comes to mind. It's not a story that involves super hero suits and the world isn't about to explode or anything, but I still think it might be one of the most heroic stories ever. It's not found in a comic book either, but right in the pages of our Bible.

In Matthew chapter 26, our bible tells us of one night, many, many years ago, when Jesus was walking with a few of His disciples in a garden of olive trees. Jesus wasn't simply going for a stroll with some friends for the fun of it. No, Jesus was in agony. He was sad and very troubled. As Jesus and three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, walked through the trees, the disciples could tell that something was wrong. Was Jesus worried about something? Was He scared of something? Was He sick? They didn't know. Then, Jesus told them that He needed them to keep watch for Him because He was very sad—so sad that He even felt close to death.

Peter, James, and John were probably really confused, but they obeyed Jesus. They stayed where they were while Jesus went further into the garden so He could pray by Himself. God had sent Jesus to earth to do something very important. The plan was for Jesus to suffer and die to pay for all of our sins, to pay for everyone's sins so they wouldn't have to. Jesus knew what that meant though. Soon people were coming to arrest Him. He would be put on trial, insulted, beaten and whipped, and that wasn't the worst part. Jesus was going to take the punishment for all the bad things that anyone had ever done or will ever do! That's a lot of punishment.

Jesus prayed. He prayed asking God, His Father, to please take away this suffering so that He wouldn't have to go through it. He asked if there was any other way, but Jesus didn't stop there. Look at how Jesus ended His prayer in Matthew 26:39 *(Read directly from the Bible.)*

He said, 'But let Your will be done, not what I want.'

He told God what He wanted, but He was willing to do things God's way, knowing it was the right thing to do.

When Jesus had finished praying, He returned to the three disciples. But they weren't keeping watch like He had asked them to. Instead they had fallen asleep. This was one of the most difficult moments in Jesus' life, and He couldn't count on His friends to do just one simple task for Him. He woke them up, told them again to keep watch, and then Jesus left to pray a second time.

Once again, Jesus knelt down and poured out His heart to God. He asked to please let this suffering pass from Him. Understand that even though Jesus knew the plan, He didn't want to be punished. He didn't want to face God's judgment against all sin. He didn't want to suffer. But just like before, Jesus ended His prayer by saying that what His Father wanted to happen was more important than what He wanted to happen.

When Jesus returned to the disciples the second time, they weren't keeping watch, they were asleep, again. So, Jesus went and prayed a third time to God.

He knelt down, once more, and He asked His Heavenly Father to please not allow Him to endure this suffering. But Jesus knew, that God knew everything, God knew what had to happen to save us. And once again, even though Jesus didn't want to suffer, He said that God's will was more important than what He wanted. Jesus knew it was right to follow His Father's plan and Jesus chose to do what was right. Jesus' heavenly Father helped Him. God gave Him the courage and the strength to do what needed to be done.

When Jesus found the disciples asleep for the third time, He woke them up with the news that bad things were going to start to happen very soon.

Before Jesus even finished speaking, voices could be heard. A large group of men, soldiers, carrying swords and torches entered the garden. Jesus knew what was coming. He could have used His power to stop the men from arresting Him. He could have asked His disciples to fight the soldiers off so He could escape. He could have called on armies of angels to help Him. But Jesus didn't do any of those things. He stood up for what was right by putting God's will above His own. He allowed the men to arrest Him. He let them put Him on trial. He let them insult Him. He let them beat and whip Him. And He let them put Him to death.

He was punished for the sins of everyone in the world and then He was buried in a tomb. But, thanks to God, that's not the end of the story.

After three days, Jesus rose from the dead! God gave Jesus the strength to do what was right even in the most difficult circumstances.

Standing for what is right is usually never going to be easy. Sometimes you won't want to stand for what is right. Sometimes you'll be tired, scared, or even feel alone. But in those moments, remember what Jesus did. Even though He prayed for another way, Jesus willingly gave up what He wanted for what God wanted. What God knew had to happen. He gave up His life to save you and to save me. Jesus showed us how to do something very important.

“Jesus showed us how to stand for what's right.”

He did it by putting His Father's desires above His own. And we can do that as well. It won't be easy, but thankfully we've learned that we can **trust God no matter what**. He'll give us the strength and the courage we need to stand up. Let's pray and ask Him for help right now.”

PRAY

Dear God, thank You for Jesus and what He did for us for by taking the punishment for sin that we deserved. Help us to grow more and more like Jesus by putting Your will above our own. Help us to always stand up for what is right. We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.

*We have a lot to be thankful for. And at the top of that list is Jesus. He did what was right even though it was more difficult than anything anyone had ever done before or since. And He gave us an example to follow. He showed us that when we choose to stand up for what is right, God will give us strength, too. Jesus is the best example of how to do that. That's why today we want to remember that

“Jesus showed us how to stand for what's right.”

When other people don't stand for what is right, it makes it so much harder for you to do so. You'll feel alone, scared, and you'll probably have second thoughts. But that doesn't mean you give up. Our memory verse this month tells us.

“Don't ever get tired of doing the right thing.”

2 Thessalonians 3:13

We can keep standing up for what's right and doing the right thing because we are never alone. God will give you the strength you need. Having conviction is a choice, and I hope that remembering what Jesus did for you will help you to be a hero and choose to stand up for what is right.