



Saint Josemaria Escriva

Founder of Opus Dei

[Home](#) - [Saint Josemaria](#) - [Talking to God](#) - [The Passion](#)

The Passion

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From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised (Mt 16:21).

«Pilate speaks: It is your custom that I release one prisoner to you on the Pasch. Whom shall I set free, Barabbas – a thief jailed with others for a murder – or Jesus? – Put this man to death and release unto us Barabbas, cries the multitude, incited by their chief priests.

«Pilate speaks again: What shall I do, then, with Jesus, who is called Christ? – *Crucifige eum!* Crucify Him!

«Pilate, for the third time, says to them: Why, what evil has He done? I find no fault in Him that deserves death.

«The clamor of the mob grows louder: *Crucify Him, crucify Him!*

«And Pilate, wishing to please the populace, releases Barabbas to them and orders Jesus to be scourged.

«Bound to the pillar. Covered with wounds.

«The blows of the lash sound upon His torn flesh, upon His undefiled flesh, that suffers for your sinful flesh. – More blows. More fury. Still more... It is the last extreme of human cruelty.

«Finally, exhausted, they unbind Jesus. – And the body of Christ yields to pain and falls limp, broken and half dead.

«You and I are unable to speak. – Words are not needed. – Look at Him, look at Him... slowly. After this... can you ever fear penance?»

Holy Rosary, second sorrowful mystery

«Our King's eagerness for suffering has been fully satisfied! – They lead Our Lord to the courtyard of the palace, and there they call together their whole band. The brutal soldiers strip His most pure body. They drape a dirty purple rag about Jesus. A reed, as a scepter, in His right hand...

«The crown of thorns, driven in by blows, makes Him a mock king... *Ave Rex Judaeorum!* – Hail, King of the Jews. (And with their blows they wound His head. And they strike Him... and they spit on Him.

«Crowned with thorns and clothed in rags of purple, Jesus is shown to the Jewish mob: *Ecce Homo!* – Behold the Man! And again the chief priests and the ministers raise the cry, saying: Crucify Him, crucify Him.

« – You and I..., haven't we crowned Him anew with thorns, and struck Him and spit on Him?

«Never more, Jesus, never more...»

Holy Rosary, third sorrowful mystery

«Carrying His Cross, Jesus goes out toward Calvary, a place that in Hebrew is called Golgotha. – And they lay hold of a certain Simon of Cyrene, who is coming from a farm; and they make him take the Cross and carry it after Jesus.

«The prophesy of Isaiah has been fulfilled: *cum sceleratis reputatus est*, He was counted among the wicked: for two others, who were robbers, were led with Him to be put to death.

«If anyone would follow me... Little friend: we are sad, living the Passion of Our Lord Jesus. – See how lovingly He embraces the Cross. – Learn from Him. – Jesus carries the Cross for you: you... carry it for Jesus.

«But don't drag the Cross... Carry it squarely on your shoulder, because your Cross, if you carry it so, will not be just any Cross: it will be... the Holy Cross. Don't bear your Cross with resignation: resignation is not a generous word. Love the Cross. When you really love it, your Cross will be... a Cross without a Cross.

«And surely you, like Him, will find Mary on the way.»

Holy Rosary, fourth sorrowful mystery