

## Let's Take A Walk

Throughout the Lenten season, I will be taking this opportunity to discuss in greater detail the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross, The Way of the Cross or the Via Dolorosa (in Jerusalem) is a series of images depicting Jesus on the way to His crucifixion. It is accompanied by a variety of prayers and the object of the stations is to help Christians make a spiritual journey through contemplating the Passion of Christ. It now has become one of the most popular devotions in the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Lutheran and Methodist Church. The stations are most commonly practiced during Lent, particularly on Good Friday. However, walking the stations can be completed throughout the liturgical year. This week I would like to discuss the first three stations: Pilate condemns Jesus to die, Jesus accepts His cross and Jesus falls for the first time. The first station pertains to Pilate being aware of the fact that he is condemning an innocent man to die and he looks for a way to free him. Yet at the same time, Pilate's heart is divided. In the end, he lets his own self-interest overcome what is right. Therefore, he sends Jesus to his death. How many times have we drowned out the voice of our conscience due to the fear of what people may think of us? How many times in our lives have we preferred success over the Jesus accepts His Cross. Just as Jesus did throughout His life, He humbly accepted all that was given to him. He knows that He is not only carrying the weight of the wooden cross itself but also the weight of sin. Because His shoulder was stripped of flesh from the brutal scourging, the cross being placed on those shoulders must have caused insurmountable pain. Are we willing to bear our cross and all the trails and tribulations that go with it? Do we allow the times we have to carry our cross to become closer to Jesus? Jesus falls for the first time. The weight of the wood, indescribable pain and dehydration has temporally overcome Jesus and he collapses hard onto the stone road. The fact that people are whirling insults and profanity at Him and being spat upon makes His collapse even more painful. We are human and we have and will continue to fall throughout our lives from the weight of the cross that we are asked to bear. Can you recall a time in your life when, like Jesus, you have fallen from sheer fatigue and weakness?

Next week, I will discuss Jesus meets His mother, Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry His cross and Veronica wipes the face of Jesus. **-Sherrle Clutts DRE**