

Today's Devotional is provided by Jules Christian

## Entering Into the Passion of Jesus

Passion is a word that denotes strong and powerful emotion. Whether we are talking about the passion of two lovers, the drive and desire of an individual or the sweet and seedy fruit, passion is intense.

The passion of the Lord is the suffering and death that Jesus experienced in his final week on this earth. I don't think we as followers of Jesus really understand the intensity of what entering into the passion of Jesus really means.

Jesus stood before Pilate, as the people railed accusations against him and yet Jesus did not strike back in anger and hate or even defend himself. How quickly do we respond to others in hate when we are confronted with the words and actions of those who do not understand?



Jesus stood up for what and who he believed in without wavering, even to the point of death. That too is his passion. How quickly do we run away or hide from speaking the truth just because of what someone might think or do?

Jesus dared to consecrate himself to God, praying, "Not my will but Yours be done." How quickly do we abandon the way and calling of God when it is inconvenient to us?

Jesus had love and compassion for those around him, even when they didn't deserve it. How quickly we are to cast judgment and hold grudges for the choices they have made?

Jesus trusted God with his life, even when all hope seemed to be lost. How quickly do we panic when he learn of danger and threats, without even a thought of trusting in God?

My dear friends, following God is intense. Entering into the passion of Jesus is not easy and not for the faint of heart. And yet, it is our calling, and truly the only way to be fully alive!

*Oh God, may our passion be to serve and follow you with our entire being and with our lives. In these days make us mindful of how we can be more like Jesus. Give us the strength and the courage to walk with you. Amen.*