

SERMON NOTES

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MESSAGE: SIMON OF CYRENE, A PASSERBY

Key Scriptures: Luke 9:51 / 23:26; Isaiah 50:7; Matthew 27:28–32; Mark 15:21; Exodus 12:13

1. Face to Face with Jesus

- **Luke 23:26**
- Simon was a passerby, coming from the countryside.
- Roman soldiers compelled him to carry the cross behind Jesus.
- Simon literally walked behind Jesus carrying the cross, a powerful picture of discipleship.
- What seemed like a random encounter became a life-changing moment.

2. Divine Orchestration

- **Mark 15:21** — Simon is specifically identified as the father of Alexander and Rufus.
- **Proverbs 16:9** — “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”
- **Genesis 50:20** — God turns what seems negative into good.
- Simon thought he was passing by, but God had already planned the moment.
- What looked like Roman compulsion was actually divine orchestration.

3. Gentile Inclusion and Missional Foreshadowing

- **Matthew 27:32; Acts 1:8**
- Simon was from Cyrene in North Africa, likely a Gentile or Hellenistic Jew, still a foreigner.
- His participation foreshadows the global reach of the Gospel.
- **Matthew 28:19** — “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”
- **Acts 1:8** — The Gospel would spread to the ends of the earth.

4. Simon’s Redemptive Influence

- **Mark 15:21**
- Simon’s sons Alexander and Rufus were known to the early church.
- **Romans 16:13** mentions Rufus, suggesting the family became believers.
- **Acts 2:10** — People from Cyrene were present at Pentecost.
- **Acts 11:20** — Men from Cyrene preached the Gospel to Gentiles.
- **Acts 13:1** — Leaders in the early church included people from Cyrene.