

BIBLE STUDY BASED ON CHAPTER ONE
OF THE THINGS HE CARRIED by Stephen Cottrell
“THE CROSS”

Read through this chapter and then again, before you pause to think at the following points:

Luke 22:52-53 *“Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, ... “...But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”*

Luke 22:61-62 *“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him: ‘Before the rooster crows you will deny me three times.’ So Peter went out and wept bitterly.”*

No one came to the aid of Jesus. Even his closest followers had deserted and betrayed him. Darkness indeed.

Read page 3:

- List the ironies about the wood.
- Could we have stood there and watched his struggle? We’d like to think, just maybe, we would speak out, or try and help carry this beam.

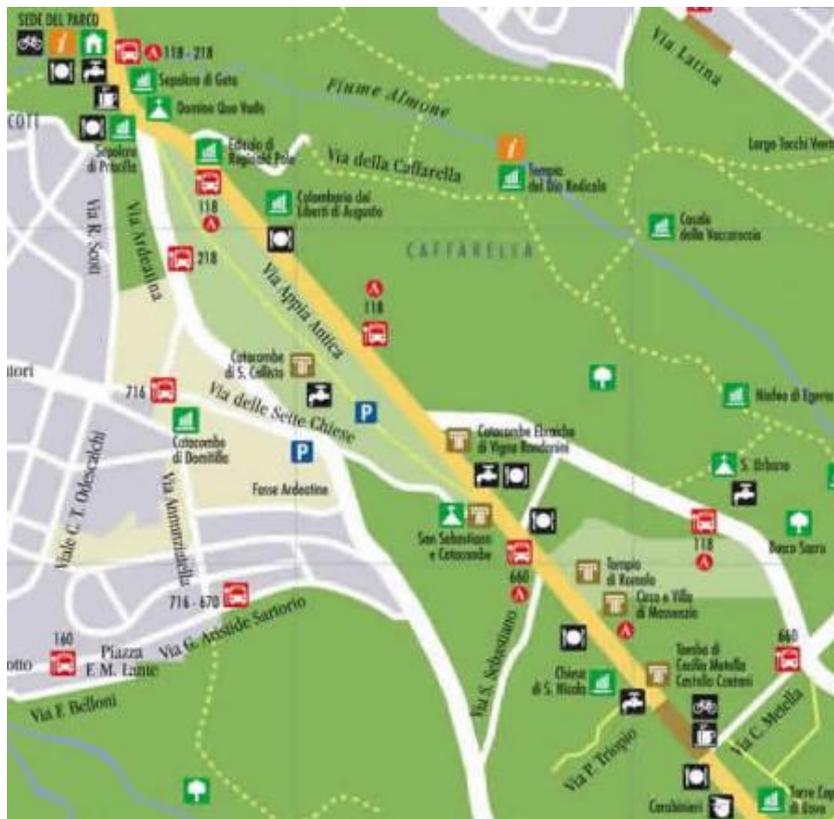
Page 3-5: ***He shouldered the weight ...***

- Does it make you curl up inside when you read this paragraph? Yet, Jesus knew it was for this he came.

The description of what would happen when he reached the hill of Golgotha, (the place of a skull), is frighteningly graphic. Read **Philippians 2:5-8**

- How do we respond to the fact that Jesus did this willingly? Think about what he left behind to come down to earth.
- Do we have any understanding of this kind of obedience?

Page 5-7: ***The Romans were fond of crucifixion... Over a thousand years thousands of people died this way ...*** After defeating the Spartacus uprising in 71 BC, 6,500 rebellious slaves were crucified. Their crosses lined the Appian Way from Cappadocia to Rome. What was the death of another dreamer?



Their names are forgotten, as in the end all names are forgotten. But the carpenter's son from Nazareth... he is remembered.

- What was so different about this man? *God stretched out on this fearful piece of wood?*
- Write down the things for which you think Jesus should be remembered.
- Highlight three which for you, are the most important.

John 12:32 *And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.*

- What drew you to Jesus?

Read the reflection on page 9, then **Mark 15:6-15**, and answer the four questions.