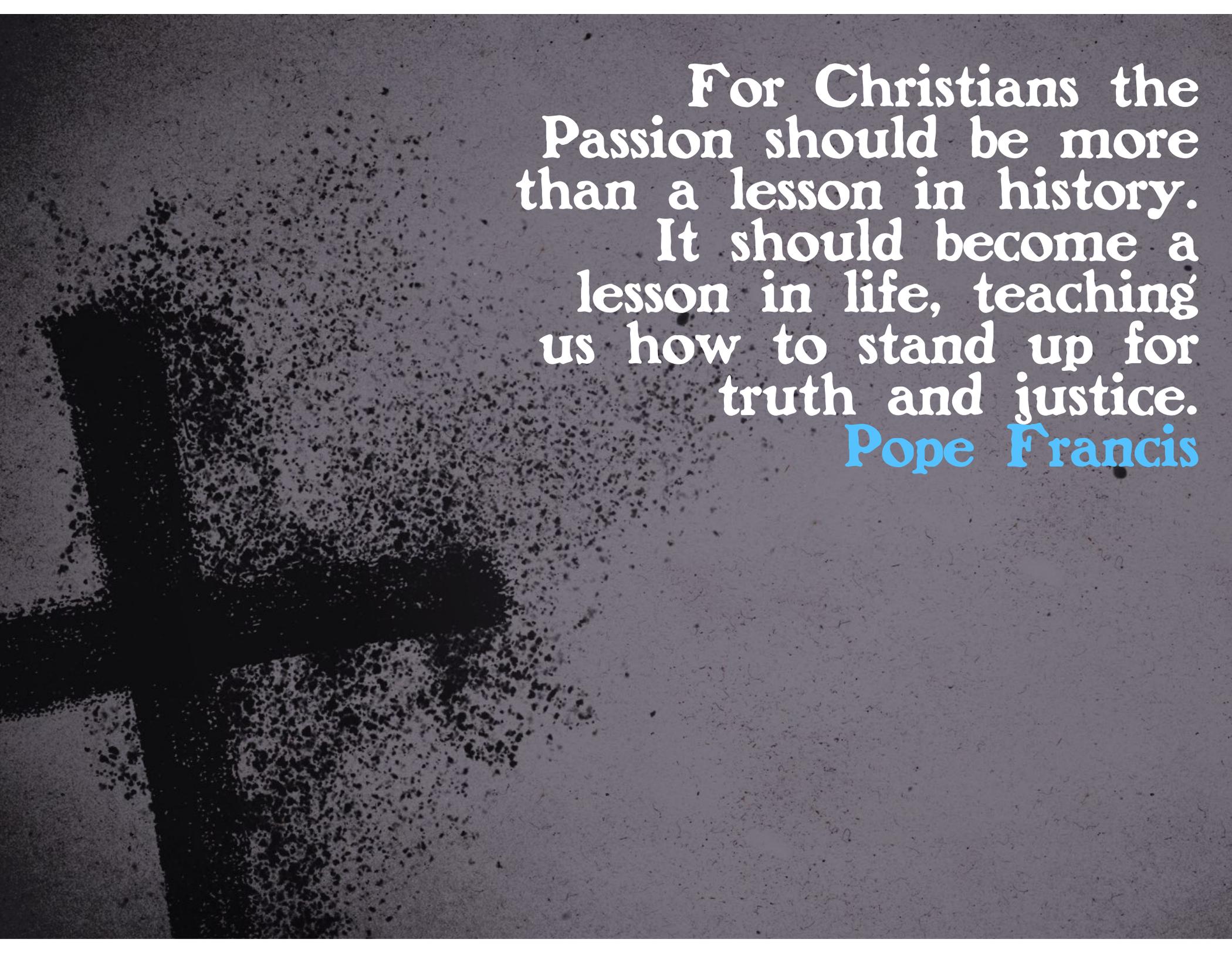


Last Things

Unintended Sin



For Christians the
Passion should be more
than a lesson in history.

It should become a
lesson in life, teaching
us how to stand up for
truth and justice.

Pope Francis

The English word
Lent is a shortened
form of the Old
English word lenten,
meaning "spring
season"

It starts 40 days
from Ash
Wednesday,
(March 6) to right
before Easter

Like Advent, **Lent** is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

Ignatian Lenten Reflection

Easter was meant to be a **process** of examination

Lent is a time that the
Universal Church
reflects on Christ's
Passion and Death in an
intensely focused way.
After Jesus was nailed
to the cross, He spoke **7**
short expressions.
Laura Jean Rabiipour

Jesus said, "Father, forgive
them, for they don't know
what they are doing."
Luke 23:34

Jesus first phrase reveals
layers of our **complicity**
in His death and His
mercy for our **ignorance**

Father...

The **unique relationship** between Jesus and God is seen in Christ's prayer of forgiveness

In all existing books of the Old Testament and all existing books of extrabiblical Jewish writings dating from the beginning of Judaism until the tenth century A.D. in Italy—there is **not a single reference** of a Jewish person addressing God directly in the first person as Father.

Father...

In the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, this identity of Jesus addressing God as father is given well over **100 times**.

I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep, and they know me, just as my Father knows me and **I know the Father**.

So I sacrifice my life for the sheep.

John 10:14-15

Forgive them..

Forgiveness had two aspects to Jesus, the first is the idea of being **lost**

Then the Lord God called to the man, "**Where are you?**" **Genesis 3:9**

Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to **seek and save** those who are lost."
Luke 19:9-10

Forgive them..

The second is of restored relationship (reconciliation) to God

For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son.

So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

Romans 5:10-11

for they don't know what they are doing.

Those standing around watching the crucifixion were in grave spiritual danger, but most of them were **oblivious** to it. The Roman soldiers saw it as just another day's work...Some in the crowd saw it as a gruesome, but interesting spectacle. Many were saddened, thinking that a good man was being treated cruelly and unjustly, **but they made no connection between their sin and His death.** Steven J. Cole

for they don't know what they are doing.

Sin is always sin in
the sight of God
**whether we are
conscious of it or not.**
Sins of ignorance need
atonement just as truly
as do conscious sins.
God is Holy, and He
will not lower His
standard of
righteousness to the
level of our ignorance.
**Ignorance is not
innocence. A. W. Pink**

for they don't know what they are doing.

But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Romans 1:18-20

for they don't know what they are doing.

But only the high priest ever entered the Most Holy Place, and only once a year.

And he always offered blood for his own sins and for the sins the people had committed in ignorance.

Hebrews 9:7

for they don't know what they are doing.

But it was the Lord's good
plan to crush him
and cause him grief.
Yet when his life is made an
offering for sin, Isaiah 53:10a

Yet it was the will
of the Lord to crush
him; he has put him
to grief; when his
soul makes an
offering for guilt,
Isaiah 53:10a **ESV**

for they don't know what they are doing.

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. **This is how you are to deal with those who sin unintentionally** by doing anything that violates one of the Lord's commands."

Leviticus 4:1-2

for they don't know what they are doing.

If the entire Israelite community sins by violating one of the Lord's commands, but the people **don't realize** it, they are still guilty. **When they become aware** of their sin... **vs 13-14**

If one of Israel's leaders sins by violating one of the commands of the Lord his God but **doesn't realize** it, he is still guilty. **When he becomes aware** of his sin **vs 22-23**

If any of the common people sin by violating one of the Lord's commands, but they **don't realize** it, they are still guilty. **When they become aware** of their sin **vs 27-28**

for they don't know what they are doing.

The sin and guilt offering
covered both our
awareness of what we
have done and our
unawareness of
what we have done.
As we draw closer to
God we become more
aware of our
“unintentional” sin

for they don't know what they are doing.

Guilt is universal. We have all felt guilty and have been guilty. If we examine the philosophies of the world, we find that, whereas many of them do not recognize the biblical concept of sin, they will invariably recognize the concept of guilt and try to deal with it. This includes not only many religions but also the fields of psychology and psychiatry. This demonstrates the degree to which guilt and guilt feelings trouble the human race. Donald E. Curtis

for they don't know what they are doing.

The Roman officer and the other soldiers at the crucifixion were terrified by the earthquake and all that had happened. They said, **"This man truly was the Son of God!"** Matthew 27:54

When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, **"This man truly was the Son of God!"** Mark 15:39

When the Roman officer overseeing the execution saw what had happened, **he worshiped God** and said, "Surely this man was innocent." Luke 23:47

for they don't know what they are doing.

The religious leaders **chose** to ignore Jesus teaching and miracles so that they could instead hold on to their power

The disciples **chose** to allow their fear and unbelief to overcome their loyalty to Jesus

The Romans **chose** to forgo justice and truth and instead gave in to the mob

Unbelief is a series of steps, not a momentary declaration

Jesus said, "Father, forgive
them, for they don't know
what they are doing."
Luke 23:34

Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a despised tax collector. **Luke 18:10**

The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer: **'I thank you, God, that I am not like other people**—cheaters, sinners, adulterers. I'm certainly not like that tax collector! I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth of my income.' **vs 10-11**

But the tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed. Instead, he beat his chest in sorrow, saying, **'O God, be merciful to me, for I am a sinner.'** **vs 13**

I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home **justified** before God. **vs 14**