



Masomo kutoka Kifo cha Yesu

The cross was not the end. It was the beginning of everything.

Kiswahili

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Haki zote zimehifadhiwa. Hakuna sehemu ya chapisho hili inayoweza kunakiliwa, kusambazwa, au kupitishwa kwa njia yoyote au kwa njia yoyote, ikiwa ni pamoja na upigaji picha, kurekodi, au njia nyingine za kielektroniki au za mitambo, bila idhini ya awali ya maandishi kutoka kwa mchapishaji.

Toleo hili limetafsiriwa kwa wasomaji mpana zaidi.

Kujitolea

*Kwa kila mtu ambaye amewahi kusimama miguuni mwa msalaba — wa kimwili au wa kiishara —
na akajiuliza inamaanisha nini yote. Kitabu hiki ni kwa ajili yako.*

Dibaji: Ijumaa Haikuwa Mwisho — Lakini Ilikuwa Kila Kitu

Kuna siku ambayo ulimwengu haujaeleweka kikamilifu.

Tunaita Ijumaa Kuu — lakini hakukuwa na kitu cha starehe kuhusu hiyo. Mtu aliachishwa nguo, alipigwa mijeledi, alipigiwa misumari, aliinuliwa, na akaachwa kufa kwa aibu ya hadharani.

Kitabu hiki ni mwaliko — mwaliko wa kukaa na kifo cha Yesu na kujifunza kutoka kwake.

Utangulizi: Kifo cha Hiari Zaidi katika Historia

"Hakuna mtu anayenichukua, bali mimi naitoa kwa hiari yangu mwenyewe." —

Yohanes 10:18

Kifo cha Yesu haikuwa ajali. Ilikuwa tendo la makusudi zaidi, la hiari, na la kusudi katika historia ya wanadamu.

Sehemu ya Kwanza: UAMUZI

Sura ya 1: Alichagua Bustani

*"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." —
Luke 22:42*

Gethsemane means olive press. It is where olives were crushed to produce oil. It was there that Jesus chose to be pressed.

Jesus could have avoided the arrest. He knew Judas was coming. He could have slipped into the crowd, taken a different route, disappeared into the countryside. But He didn't. He went to the garden. He prayed. He sweated drops like blood. And then He stayed.

The first lesson from the death of Jesus is this: surrendering to the will of God is not weakness. It is the most powerful thing a human being can do.

Jesus was not weak in Gethsemane. He was fighting the greatest battle of His life — not against soldiers, but against the pull of self-preservation. Every human instinct said, 'Run.' But love said, 'Stay.'

When you face your own Gethsemane — the moment when obedience is costly and escape is possible — remember that staying is not passive. Staying is a choice. And it is often the holiest choice you can make.

The will of God is not always easy. But it is always purposeful. And those who surrender to it, like Jesus did in the garden, discover that God's plan is greater than their comfort.

Sura ya 2: Ukimya Uliozungumza

"Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered: "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above." — John 19:10-11

Pilate was confused. Here was a man accused of claiming to be a king, and yet He spoke in riddles. He refused to defend Himself against the accusations. He refused to perform for the crowd. He

refused to beg.

The silence of Jesus before Pilate is one of the most powerful moments in all of history.

There is a lesson here for every believer: you do not have to defend yourself before every tribunal. Some battles are not won by argument. Some accusers do not deserve an answer. Some silences are more powerful than any speech.

Jesus knew that Pilate's power was delegated, not ultimate. He knew the outcome was already settled. He didn't need to argue His innocence because His Father had already seen it.

There will be moments in your life when you are wrongly accused and the temptation will be to fight back with words. But Jesus teaches us another way: stand on what you know is true, entrust your case to God, and let your character — not your argument — be your defense.

The silence of Jesus was not surrender. It was supreme confidence in the sovereignty of God.

Sehemu ya Pili: MSALABA

Sura ya 3: Maneno Saba ya Mwisho

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." — Luke 23:34

The final statements of a dying man reveal his soul. And the seven last words of Jesus from the cross reveal the soul of God.

Word 1 — Forgiveness: 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' Even in agony, His first thought was mercy. The lesson: a truly transformed heart forgives even while being wounded.

Word 2 — Salvation: 'Today you will be with me in paradise.' To the thief beside him. The lesson: it is never too late to turn to Jesus. One moment of genuine faith is enough.

Word 3 — Family: 'Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother.' He made provision for His mother while He was dying. The lesson: love is practical. True love attends to the needs of others even in personal crisis.

Word 4 — Forsakenness: 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' He bore the full weight of separation from God so we never have to. The lesson: Jesus went into the darkness so you could come into the light.

Word 5 — Humanity: 'I am thirsty.' He was fully human. He felt real pain. The lesson: God did not take a shortcut through suffering. He went through it.

Word 6 — Completion: 'It is finished.' Not 'I am finished.' The work was done. The price was paid. The lesson: your salvation is complete. You cannot add to it and cannot subtract from it.

Word 7 — Surrender: 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' His final breath was an act of trust. The lesson: the final posture of a Christ-like life is surrender to the Father.

Sura ya 4: Pazia Lililopasuka

"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." — Matthew

27:50-51

The moment Jesus died, something happened sixty feet away in the Temple.

The inner curtain — a massive veil separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies — tore from top to bottom. Not from bottom to top, as a man would tear it. From top to bottom. This was God's hand.

For generations, only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies, and only once a year, with blood, with fear, with preparation. That curtain represented separation. It said: you cannot come in.

When Jesus died, the curtain tore. And the message was unmistakable: you can come in now.

This is the great lesson of the cross: access. The death of Jesus did not just remove guilt — it removed distance. It opened a way into the presence of God that was previously unavailable.

You no longer need a mediator to approach God. You no longer need to wait for the right season or the right priest. Because of the blood of Jesus, you have what Hebrews 10:19 calls 'confidence to enter the Most Holy Place.' Come boldly. The curtain has been torn.

Sehemu ya Tatu: MAANA

Sura ya 5: Upendo Unavyoonekana katika Mipaka Yake

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." — John 15:13

We use the word love casually. We love food. We love music. We love experiences. But the cross redefines love at its most radical.

Romans 5:8 says: 'But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.'

Not while we were trying. Not while we were improving. Not while we were good enough. While we were still sinners.

This is love without condition. Love without waiting for the object to deserve it. Love that gives before the response is guaranteed.

The lesson here is both theological and personal: if God loved you at your worst, then His love for you is not contingent on your performance. You cannot earn it more by being good. You cannot lose it by failing. It was settled at the cross.

But there is also a call in this. Because the one who has received this kind of love is now expected to extend it. To love the unlovely. To forgive the undeserving. To give without guarantee of return. The cross does not just show you how God loves you — it shows you how to love others.

Sura ya 6: Ubadilishanaji Uliobadilisha Kila Kitu

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." — 2 Corinthians 5:21

Theologians call it the Great Exchange. And it is exactly that.

Jesus — who knew no sin — took on sin. You — who knew no righteousness — received righteousness. It is the most lopsided trade in history, and it was offered freely.

He became what you were, so you could become what He is.

This is not metaphor. This is not poetry. This is the actual transaction that happened at the cross. Your guilt was transferred to Him. His righteousness was credited to you. And it happened at the moment you placed your faith in Him.

The lesson of the Great Exchange is this: you no longer have to carry what Christ already bore. The weight of your past — every failure, every sin, every secret — was laid on Him at the cross. You were not forgiven because you earned it. You were forgiven because He took it.

Live from that reality. Not striving to become righteous — but walking in the righteousness that is already yours. Not trying to earn what has already been given. Rest in the exchange. Walk in the result.

Sehemu ya Nne: JIBU

Sura ya 7: Kubeba Msalaba Wako

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." — Luke 9:23

The death of Jesus was not just an event to be observed. It was an invitation to be accepted.

Jesus did not call us to admire His cross. He called us to carry our own.

This is the part of the gospel that is rarely preached at recruitment services: following Jesus is costly. It requires the death of self-will, the crucifixion of personal ambition that conflicts with God's purpose, the willingness to be misunderstood, misrepresented, and overlooked — all for the sake of something greater.

But notice the phrase: 'take up your cross.' Not 'it will be placed on you involuntarily.' You take it up. It is a daily decision. Each morning, you choose again to lay down what you want and pick up what He has called you to.

This is not religion. This is discipleship. And it is simultaneously the hardest and most liberating thing a person can do.

The cross you carry will look different from His. It may be the sacrifice of comfort for obedience, the choice of integrity over advantage, the decision to serve when you could dominate. But the principle is the same: something must die for something greater to live.

What is your cross today?

Sura ya 8: Kifo Kinachozalisha Maisha

"Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds." — John 12:24

The final lesson from the death of Jesus is perhaps the most paradoxical and the most profound: death is not the end. In the kingdom of God, death is often the beginning.

The grain of wheat that refuses to fall to the ground remains alone. It stays intact. It preserves itself. But it never becomes more than it is.

The grain that falls — that surrenders its outer shell, that releases its form in order to fulfil its function — that grain produces a harvest.

Jesus told this parable in the days before His own death. He was telling us: my death is not failure. It is seed. It is the thing that makes everything else possible.

And He was also telling us about our own lives. The things you must surrender — the ambitions that need to die, the ego that needs to be buried, the rights you need to release — these are not losses. They are seeds.

You cannot hold on to your life and find it. You must lose it to discover what it was always meant to become.

The death of Jesus was the most productive death in history. One grain of wheat fell into the ground. And from that grain, billions of lives have been transformed.

Whatever you are being called to surrender today, know this: what dies in your hands will produce a harvest beyond anything you could have imagined. Trust the process. Trust the Farmer. Trust the seed.

Hitimisho: Ijumaa Inabadilisha Kila Kitu

Kifo cha Yesu kilinunua msamaha wetu, kilifungua uwepo wa Mungu, na kututalikia maisha ya ufuasi.

Nawe usione msalaba kwa njia ile ile tena.

Kuhusu Mwandishi

Timilehin Idowu ni mwalimu, mwandishi, na mhudumu wa Neno. Shauku yake ni kusaidia waamini kugundua kina cha Maandiko na kukua katika utimilifu wa wito wao katika Kristo. Yeye ndiye mwandishi wa Mfululizo wa Becoming Great.