

Looking Unto Jesus

What inspires us to walk by faith when the road is paved with suffering? What sustains us along the way when the end is marked by martyrdom?

I. James witnessed the _____
_____ of Jesus (Mk 5:35-43).

II. James witnessed the _____
_____ of Jesus (Mk 9:2-10).

III. James witnessed the _____
_____ of Jesus (Mk 14:32-49).

IV. James witnessed the _____ and
_____ of Jesus (Mk 16:14).

The next martyr we meet with, according to St. Luke, in the History of the Apostles' Acts, was James the son of Zebedee, the elder brother of John, and a relative of our Lord; for his mother Salome was cousin to the Virgin Mary. It was not until ten years after the death of Stephen that the second martyrdom took place; for no sooner had Herod Agrippa been appointed governor of Judea, than, with a view to ingratiate himself with them, he raised a sharp persecution against the Christians, and determined to make an effectual blow, by striking at their leaders. The account given us by an eminent primitive writer, Clemens Alexandrinus, ought not to be overlooked; that, as James was led to the place of martyrdom, his accuser was brought to repent of his conduct by the apostle's extraordinary courage and undauntedness, and fell down at his feet to request his pardon, professing himself a Christian, and resolving that James should not receive the crown of martyrdom alone. Hence they were both beheaded at the same time. Thus did the first apostolic martyr cheerfully and resolutely receive that cup, which he had told our Savior he was ready to drink (Mk 10:39). Timon and Parmenas suffered martyrdom about the same time; the one at Philippi, and the other in Macedonia. These events took place A.D. 44.

- John Foxe