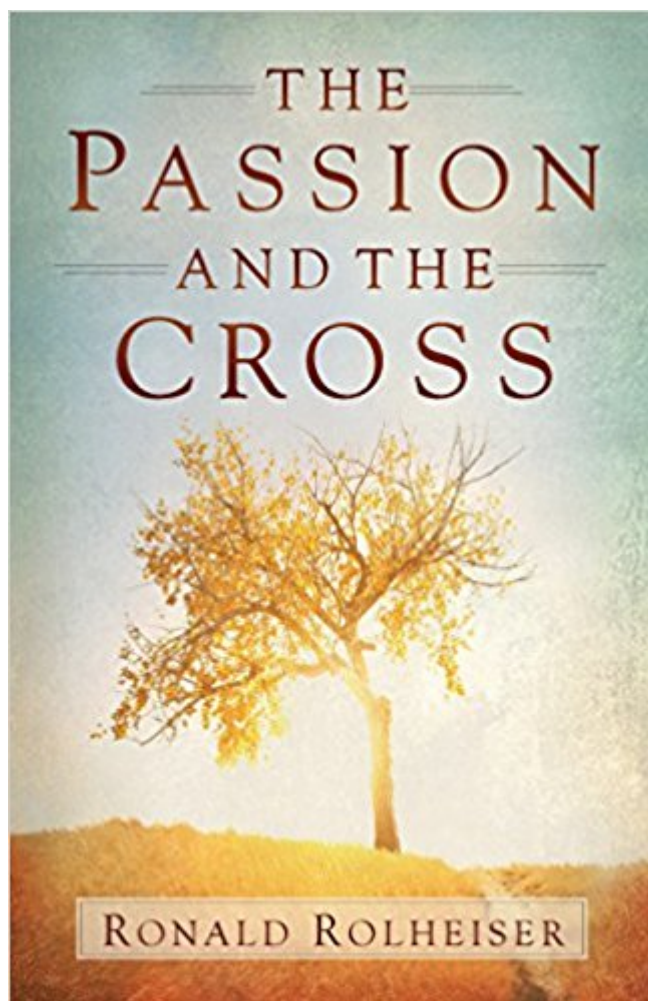


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# The Passion And The Cross



## Synopsis

Ronald Rolheiser, one of the most influential spiritual writers of our day, offers profound reflections on the central mystery of our Christian faith. His beautifully written meditations on the passion and the cross invites you to a new understanding of redemption and offers insight into the meaning of your own loss and suffering. Take a journey into the deeper meaning of pain with guidance from a trusted spiritual advisor.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Especially in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, called by Pope Francis, you simply won’t do any better than reading Rolheiser on The Passion and the Cross. Don’t just read this book—savor it, pray with it, and return to it throughout the year.”  
—John L. Allen, Jr., associate editor, *Cruce/Boston Globe*  
“Ron Rolheiser wades into the Friday-Sunday mystery of faith with courage and honesty. He brings to his exposition his deep spirituality and that of the church. He lines out that spirituality with an acute pastoral sensibility. But at bottom his book is a witness to the transformative, scandalous truth of the Gospel whereby we are saved in the drama of God’s love. Rolheiser is unflinching in his grasp of the hard, wondrous reality of God’s presence in the person of Christ. Readers will find here compelling testimony to the recurring power of Easter in the daily living of our lives.”  
—Walter Brueggemann, *Columbia Theological Seminary*  
“One of the greatest Christian spiritual writers of our age turns his gaze toward the mystery of suffering

and the meaning of the cross. This profound and compassionate spiritual meditation will be of inestimable use to anyone who has ever suffered or struggled in life— which is to say, everyone. — James Martin, S.J., author, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* — “From this most trusted spiritual guide, one is invited to plumb the depths of mystery, entering into life’s most challenging questions about suffering, death, life, hope, faith, and ultimate meaning. The answers lie in the cross. And while its secret cannot be totally comprehended, one learns from Rolheiser how it can be lived with both head and heart. — Barbara E. Reid, O.P., vice president and academic dean, professor of New Testament studies, Catholic Theological Union — “If you think this is a predictable and usual commentary on the passion accounts of Jesus, be ready for a very grateful surprise! Here you will find years of reflection, prayer, and a life in deep union with the mystery of death, suffering, and the resurrection that comes with it. The course of Jesus’s journey is the course of fulfilled humanity, and it seems to surely be the course of Rolheiser’s journey. — Richard Rohr, O.F.M., author, *Eager to Love* — “With his elegant prose and thought provoking imagery, Rolheiser brilliantly explores the mystery at the heart of the Christian faith. *The Passion and the Cross* challenges readers to enter more deeply into questions of faith, life, love, and suffering, and then offers the spiritual tools needed for the journey. — Kerry Weber, managing editor, *America*, author, *Mercy in the City*

Ronald Rolheiser is a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In addition to being a popular speaker and writer, his books are popular throughout the world and his weekly column is carried by more than seventy newspapers worldwide. He is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. Rolheiser is among the most popular and inclusive spiritual writers today. Although rooted in the Catholic faith, he is able to transcend denominational boundaries and religious language to appeal to both practicing Christians and unaffiliated seekers.

Anyone who went to Sunday School as a child in any denomination of the Christian faith was taught this as fact: "Jesus died on the cross for your sins." Huh? This is one of the most perplexing--if not downright obtuse--theological statements of Christianity. And the author, Roman Catholic priest Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, gives one of the best explanations I have ever heard or read. This short book (130 pages) is ideal reading for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, which is when I chose to read it, but obviously it can be read anytime of the year. Filled with wisdom for all Christians (not just

Roman Catholics), I found this book helped strengthen my intellectual and cognitive understanding of my spiritual faith.

My church book club read this and many of us went on to purchase extra copies for gifts. This is a powerful, insightful book. Ronald Rolheiser has an amazing insight into the passion. It is a life changing, enriching book. I will continue to turn to it when focusing on the sacrifice of our Lord.

Father Rolheiser, as in his other books, opened to me many ways to observe this Holy Season. We can get inspiration from him, as he offers relative examples, people like the average Christian who have grown and lived their own passion. All of his books open new doors of learning and growing in knowledge of the loving God.

Very thought provoking and personally, spiritually challenging! Much of his insight is new material for me, which pushed me to look beyond my routine perception of Christ in His Passion. Recommend it! Easy read, but processing it deserves some time.

Our very diverse parish book group read and discussed *The Passion and the Cross* during Lent. Some in our group of 20 rated it a 1 star and others a 5. The text was personal, offered a different frame of reference for the passion, challenged all of us to think deeply and respond prayerfully, And, that's why we read. I recommend reading it with a friend, or a group, for the conversation it will generate.

In Lent I deepen my understanding of the suffering of Christ. This work of Ronald Rolheiser helps me to do so. His understanding of the feelings of Christ and the thoughts He had at the time of His suffering gives ample opportunity for reflection/meditation/contemplation.

I am taking it slow and easy, as for all Rolheiser's books. So much to stop and pray over. I especially appreciate the new insights into the Passion of Jesus.

Fr. Rolheiser doesn't disappoint in this very readable book that provides insights, points for reflection, as well as challenging us to see Christ's passion, death, and resurrection in a sometimes different light. I've especially liked the book's format, in that it provided me an opportunity to incorporate brief sections into my morning prayer routine.

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