

Site: Via Dolorosa means “Way of Suffering”

Scripture References: Matthew 16:24; 1 Peter 2:21

Historical Significance:

1. Traditional route that for the past 200 years many people believe Jesus took on His way to Calvary.

There are 14 stations along the route. Many are not mentioned in the Bible. When Queen Helena (mother of Constantine the Great) came to Jerusalem many Jews pointed to a tomb under the temple to Aphrodite as the location of Jesus’ burial. She had a church built over the site where Jesus is believed to have been crucified, buried and resurrected. It is now known as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

2. History, archeology and scripture indicate that the route Jesus took to the cross followed a different path. One that lead from the Praetorium (Governor’s Official Residence) to Calvary. Scripture states that Jesus was judged at the Praetorium not the Antonia Fortress. It begins at the Citadel goes down David Street to Christian Quarter Road and then to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Things to look for:

1. Numbered stations along the route. The events at Stations 5 and 8 are mentioned in the Bible. Stations 10-14 are located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
2. The tomb is enclosed by a shrine called the Aedicula.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. How are we to follow in his steps when we deal with suffering and injustice? We take up our cross daily and follow Him.
2. The cross wasn’t the end for Jesus and it isn’t the end for us either.