

The Friday of JESUS' PASSION WEEK, April 10, 2020

Turn off the outside "noise" for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God's Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

GOOD FRIDAY



REDEEMED WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST

GOOD FRIDAY is the Friday preceding Easter Sunday when Jesus was crucified and killed. That terrible Friday has been called "Good" because that word used to mean "holy." Calling it "HOLY FRIDAY" might make more sense to us today.

On this day, Jesus spoke seven times. **His "last words" show us how to live!**

LUKE 23:34 (TNIV)

Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."**

"Father" — Jesus shows us where to **look** when we are wronged.

"Forgive them" — Jesus shows us how to **respond** when we are wronged.

"for they do not know what they are doing" — Jesus shows us how to **think** when we're wronged.

SO WE PRAY: "FATHER, HELP US TO FORGIVE, AS JESUS DID."

LUKE 23:43 (TNIV)

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, **today you will be with me in paradise.**"

"Jesus answered him" — Jesus didn't allow his **own** struggle to be his sole focus. People matter.

"today you will be with me in paradise" — Jesus **helped someone** going through the **same struggle**.

"today you will be with me in paradise" — Jesus shared the **resources** God had given **Him**.

"today you will be with me in paradise" — Jesus **invited** someone into **His journey!**

SO WE PRAY: "FATHER, HELP US TO LOOK FOR OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP, AS JESUS DID."

JOHN 19:26-27 (TNIV)

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, **"Woman, here is your son,"** and to the disciple, **"Here is your mother."** From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

- Jesus reminds us that **our** pain should not blind us to the pain of **others**.
 - Jesus shows us how to put the needs of **those closest to us** before our **own**.
 - Jesus reveals how much he wants **everyone** to have **a place to belong**.
- SO WE PRAY: "FATHER, HELP US HELP OTHERS FIND A PLACE TO BELONG, AS JESUS DID."**

MATTHEW 27:46 (TNIV)

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, **"Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?"** (which means **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"**). [PSALM 22:1]

We see what Jesus does when he is facing his worst day imaginable...

- He **talks** to God.
- He speaks **God's Word**. (PSALM 22:14-15; 69:3, 21)
- He **tells** God how he feels.
- He **trusts** God (He is honest about how he feels, but calls out to him as **"My God"**)!

SO WE PRAY: "FATHER, HELP US TURN TO YOU WHEN WE STRUGGLE, AS JESUS DID."

JOHN 19 (TNIV)

²⁸ Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, **"I am thirsty."** [PSALM 22:14-15; 69:3, 21] ²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

We see that when Jesus is struggling...

- He **acknowledged** his thirst. (Often we try to hide it or deny it.)
- He views his circumstances **in the light of God's Word**. (See PSALM 22:14-15; 69:3, 21.)

SO WE PRAY: "FATHER, HELP ME TO TELL YOU WHEN I'M STRUGGLING, AS JESUS DID."

JOHN 19:30 (TNIV)

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, **"It is finished."** With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus **knew** what the Father had sent him to earth to do. (Often we aren't **aware of** our calling.) The focus of Jesus' life was to **finish the work** His Father had given him.

SO WE PRAY: "FATHER, MAY WE BE FAITHFUL TO THE PURPOSE YOU GAVE US, AS JESUS WAS."

LUKE 23:46 (TNIV)

Jesus called out with a loud voice, **"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."** [PSALM 31:5] When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Jesus placed **everything about himself** into the Father's hands. He knew, **"God's got this."** Jesus **trusted** his Abba Father **in everything** — including his life, his breath, and his spirit.

SO WE PRAY: "FATHER, HELP US TRUST YOU EVERY DAY...AND TO OUR FINAL BREATH, AS JESUS DID."

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2 CORINTHIANS 8:9 (NIV)

*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich,
yet for our sake he became poor,
so that we through his poverty might become rich."*

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May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you today,

Pastor Doug

P.S. Please be praying for God to pour out His love, kindness and grace on our guests and visitors this Sunday — our first **online EASTER CELEBRATION!**

We would love to hear from you! How are you doing right now? And we would love to pray for you! Email us at info@bethanyonline.net

P.P.S. Keep checking our “ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TODAY” at www.bethanyonline.net — we will try to post fresh encouragement **every day** during this crisis!

P.P.P.S. And watch our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** this coming Sunday at 10:30 A.M. for more encouragement.