

Good Friday Meditation – “If He Had Come Down From The Cross”

Should I say, “Happy Good Friday?” Many ask the question: “what is so good about the day that Jesus died on the cross?” The disciples would have certainly asked that question. They thought they were losing their “everything” (Savior, Best Friend, Protector, Provider...). He spent time in the discourse of John 13-17 instructing and encouraging them to SEE THE WHOLE PLAN. No matter where you are today (in your journey), let me encourage you to see the same. Today and this season and this moment are just another step in your Journey For Jesus! You could also say: “Journey With Jesus!”

Holy Week began a long time ago, where the early Christians began holding “services” to commemorate Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) all the way through to the victory of the Resurrection. They would often re-enact the events to remember. We want to pause today for a moment to reflect upon:

- What Jesus did for us TODAY on the cross
- How that makes all the difference in our lives today
- What He truly means to us!

We remember, from the gospels that we have just studied, our Savior’s amazing last words before He received the PENALTY that set us free from eternal destruction. We often refer to them as the 7 last words of the Cross. Notice His heart during His period of suffering:

- a. Jesus concentrates on others (first) – “them” / “the thief” / “His mother”
- b. Then, He turns to Himself – “why have you forsaken me?” – I Thirst” – “It is finished”
- c. Lastly – after it is finished: “he gave up the ghost: He declared that everything is accomplished. THAT’S WHY WE SAY – “IT’S ALREADY DONE!”

- **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."** (Luke 23:34)
- **"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."** (Luke 23:43)
- **"Woman, behold your son... Behold your mother."** (John 19:26–27)
- **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** (Matthew 27:46 / Mark 15:34)
- **"I thirst."** (John 19:28)
- **"It is finished."** (John 19:30)
- **"Father, into your hands I commend/commit my spirit."** (Luke 23:46)

Think of it like this: IF HE HAD COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS...OUR REDEMPTION WOULD STILL BE IN PROGRESS! Some of us still seem to trying to do the work that He already finished on Calvary. Just keep in mind that any sin at all would immediately disqualify us to do what He alone was able to do.

There is a gospel song that we used to sing to help us remember what this precious day means to us.

Look at the lyrics

1. When Jesus hung on Calvary – people came from miles to see
2. They said: “If you BE the Christ,” come down and save your life!
3. BUT, Jesus (Sweet Jesus), He never answered them – for He knew that Satan was tempting Him;
4. IF HE HAD COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS...my soul would still be lost!
5. He would not come down from the cross just to save HIMSELF
6. He decided to die just to save ME!



As we meditate on the words to this song, it points to a powerful reality. Jesus had YOU on His mind when He finished His journey (His Tour of Duty) here. Wherever you are in your walk right now, He went all the way for you. Will you go all the way with Him?

He Decided To Die

Let's look at the word to help us celebrate today with some context.

Matthew 27: 32 – 43 The King on a Cross

³² Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross. ³³ And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, ³⁴ they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted *it*, He would not drink.

³⁵ Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

“They divided My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.”

³⁶ Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. ³⁷ And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him:

THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and another on the left.

³⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “You who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”

⁴¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² “He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. ⁴³ He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”

BUT HEBREWS 12:1-2 GIVES US THE INSIGHT TO SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON IN HIS MIND, IN HIS HEART, IN HIS SOUL.

*“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame**, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

Hebrews 12:1-2 is referring to those who have died before us (as sort of cheerleaders) encouraging us on earth to finish the race successfully because they have seen the prize?

GOOD FRIDAY really meant “Holy” Friday. It was the day that was consecrated to set us free from the penalty that robbed us of our purpose. It’s another incredible day that we get to celebrate the true meaning of our lives. Like our birthdays – it’s a day we were assigned a great purpose. Like our rebirth (the day we were born again) – it’s a day we unleashed that purpose. On GOOD FRIDAY, Jesus purchased back your purpose. He died for us so that we could live for Him now and with Him forever.

NO WONDER THEY CALL IT GOOD!

“Jesus went to Calvary, to save a wretch like you and me...That’s love!

They hung Him high,

They stretched Him wide,

He hung His head, for me He died...That’s love!

BUT THAT’S NOT HOW THE STORY ENDS, THREE DAYS LATER HE ROSE AGAIN!

THAT’S LOVE!



Jesus Went to Calvary