

Michael Hansen / General

John 19:16–42

“Good Friday”

On “Good Friday” we should be reminded of the original “Good Friday”:

[Genesis 1:26–31](#) (LSB)

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over...every living thing...And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

On the first Friday, God made man and gave man dominion, and God said that it was very Good. It was the first “Good Friday”.

When we come to the “Good Friday” presented in the gospels we find that it is “good” for very different reasons. For on “Good Friday” we do not celebrate the creation of man, but we mourn the fact that the Son of Man and Son of God was put to death.

For on the cross, the True Man and the Second Adam was put to death for the sin and rebellion of the first Adam so that words of God that declared man’s creation “good” might prove true.

“Good Friday” shows, in stark relief, an irony that is present throughout the gospels. For on Good Friday, Life itself was put to death and the eternal Word of God was silenced.

The Word Silenced

In [Ezekiel 37](#) the prophet speaks God's word over a valley of dry bones and they are brought back to life. On Good Friday, the Word of God was brought to Golgotha, place of the skull so that he might be put to death.

On Good Friday, the one who clothes His people in His own righteousness was striped bare and had his garments divided amongst wicked men.

On Good Friday, the one who keeps watch over us, never slumbering nor sleeping had a watch kept over him as he entered into the sleep of death.

On Good Friday, the King of Kings was mocked with a derogatory title placed above his head. And yet man has never seen a coronation or enthronement so glorious as that of the Christ when He was lifted up.

On Good Friday, robbers mocked the one who sets prisoners free.

On Good Friday, the Chief priests scorned the true High Priest and the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

On Good Friday, the scribes of the Law mocked the Word Made Flesh.

On Good Friday, the elders of Israel insulted Israel's true Elder Brother.

On Good Friday, darkness fell as the Light of the World was lifted up.

On Good Friday, the Son who is in the bosom of the Father was forsaken.

On Good Friday, the bridegroom of the wedding feast, who turned water into wine, was given sour wine to drink and endured the foaming cup of God's judgement.

On Good Friday, He who gives the Spirit without measure yielded up His spirit.

On Good Friday, He who stretched out the heavens like a garment was wrapped in burial cloth.

On Good Friday, He who is the Way, went down to the paths of death. He who is the truth was asked by Pilate, "What is truth." And He who is the Life was laid in the tomb of death.

On Good Friday, He who holds the keys to death and Hades was subjected to Roman guard at His tomb.

On Good Friday, the Rock of Our Salvation who breaks open the seven seals was sealed behind a rock.

Bearing Reproach with Christ

On Good Friday, the kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers gathered together against the Lord and Against His Christ.

But we fix our eyes upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.

Consider Him who endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary, fainting in heart.

He sanctified us through His own blood and suffered outside the gate. Let us therefore, go out to Him, outside the camp, and bear His reproach.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!