

## Good Friday

It's GOOD FRIDAY - and in order to understand why Good Friday is so good...

...it'll help you to know that - this is the day when we commemorate - and celebrate...

...the way in which the Lord Jesus demonstrated His infinite love for you and for me.

And just to be clear - the Lord Jesus demonstrated His infinite love for us...

...by dying for our sins - upon the old rugged cross.

I like the way that Jesus explained it - - in John chapter 15 - it's verse 13 where He declared...

Jhn 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

In order to grasp what Jesus was saying - it'll help us to know that - there are different levels of love.

We love cheeseburgers - and we love our pets - - and hopefully - not in the same way.

We love our hobbies - and we love our parents - - and I'm certain that these are two different kinds of love.

And according to Jesus - the greatest - boss level of love...

...is demonstrated by those who lay down their lives for those they love.

And listen - this is exactly what the Lord Jesus did - when He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins.

It was on that first Good Friday - when Jesus laid down His life...

...so that we could be saved from the wrath of our Almighty God.

And in order to understand why Jesus came to die for sinners like us...

...we should take a moment to consider our situation.

You might not know this - but - we've all sinned and we've all fallen short of God's perfect standard.

And not only that - we were all conceived with the stain of original sin.

And so - parents - remember - whenever your kids misbehave - it's partially your fault.

We were all born - spiritually dead - in sins and trespasses.

And what's even worse is that - we are born into spiritual captivity.

That being the case - we can rejoice in knowing that Christ Jesus came to pay our ransom - so that we could be set free from the snare of Satan.

Let's consider how Jesus explained this - in Matthew chapter 20 - it's verse 28 - where He declared...

Mat 20:28 "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

Now - that word - Ransom - was used in reference to the price that is paid - in order to redeem a captive.

And what this means is that - Jesus came to pay the price that was necessary...

...so that we could be set free from the snare of Satan.

In this way - He loved us with the greatest love.

Now - in order to understand the price that He paid - let's consider the pain that He endured on that first Good Friday...

...beginning with the stress that He endured - on the night of His arrest.

With this as the focus - it'll help you to know that - Jesus foreknew the pain that He was about to endure.

And He already knew that the religious rulers of Israel would crucify Him.

- Proof of my point is found in Matthew chapter 20 - beginning at verse 18 - where Jesus declared...

Mat 20:18 "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death,

Mat 20:19 "and deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge and to crucify. And the third day He will rise again."

- From this - we see that Jesus knew exactly how He would die.
  - And knowing that He would need supernatural strength from His heavenly Father - in order to accomplish His mission...
    - ...Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane on Good Friday - in order to pray.
- Luke described that time of prayer in his gospel account - it's in Luke chapter 22 - verse 44 - where he declared...

Luk 22:44 ...being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

- Here in this text - we find a Greek Physician named Luke - writing about the way in which...
  - ...Jesus' sweat - became like great drops of blood...
    - ...which some have taken to mean that Jesus was sweating blood.
- Now - I'm no doctor - I don't even play one on TV.
  - And yet - there is a condition - known in the medical community as - Hematidrosis.
    - And just to be clear - this is a very rare condition in which a human being sweats blood.
      - And according to one report - it's a condition that might occur when a person is suffering extreme levels of stress...
        - ...for example - when they are facing their own death.
  - Now - as we consider this loss of blood - it'll be helpful for us to consider how much blood a person can actually lose - before they die.
    - The average human body has 8-12 pints of blood - and the maximum amount of blood you can lose and still be functional is 33%.
      - If you continue to lose more than that - your body will collapse and send you into a temporary coma.
        - If more than 66% of your blood is lost, death is certain.
          - Not only that - but if a person loses 40% of their blood - then they'll need a blood transfusion - or else death is inevitable.

- And so - while sweating great drops of blood won't kill a person...
  - ...any loss of blood should be considered dangerous - no matter the amount.

- The Scourge

- And listen - Jesus not only lost a small amount of blood through his pores...
  - ...but He also lost a great deal of blood after He was scourged.
  - With this in mind - look with me - there at Mark 15 - verse 15 - where Mark writes...

Mar 15:15      So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had **scourged** Him, to be crucified.

- The scourging of a Roman whip - would create massive gashes on the backside of the Lord Jesus.
  - And this too would've resulted in a tremendous amount of Blood loss.

- Crown of Thorns

- And not only was Jesus bleeding from His pores and from the lacerations on His back...
  - ...but He was also bleeding from the wounds that were inflicted upon his head.
  - Let's consider how Mark described this - in Mark chapter 15 - it's beginning at verse 16 - where Mark tells us that...

Mar 15:16      ...the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison.

Mar 15:17 And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head,

Mar 15:18 and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

- Now - as we read about this crown of thorns - we shouldn't imagine the small thorns found on a rose bush...
  - ...but rather - we should picture the huge thorns that are found on a mesquite tree...
    - ...which would've pierced the soft skin on His head - resulting in a greater loss of blood.
- From this - we see that Jesus was not only loosing blood through His pores - and through the lacerations on His back...
  - ...but after the soldiers placed the crown of thorns on his head...
    - ...He also began to loose a great deal of blood from the numerous puncture wounds on His head.
      - And if you've ever seen an MMA fight - then you know that a small cut on the forehead can produce a great deal of blood.
        - Therefore - this additional blood loss was bringing Jesus closer to the point of death.
- Carrying the Cross
  - And not only was Jesus loosing blood from wounds all over His body...
    - ...but He was also forced to carry a huge cross beam - which probably weighed around 100 pounds.
      - With this in mind - let's consider John's account - found in John 19 beginning at verse 16 - where we learn that...

Jhn 19:16 (Pilate) delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away.

Jhn 19:17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,  
Jhn 19:18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

- Now - as we read John's report - I should remind you that Jesus was bleeding from multiple wounds.
  - And now - he was being forced to carry a 100 pound cross beam - up a hill - to the place called Calvary.
    - And through this physical exertion - His heart rate increased - resulting in an even greater loss of blood.
- This might explain why Jesus ended up being physically unable to carry the cross - all the way up the hill - to Calvary.
  - And while John tells us that Jesus was the one who was originally bearing his own cross - Luke tells us in his gospel - that...

Luk 23:26 ...they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.

- And so we see that Jesus didn't carry the cross - all the way to Calvary - but instead - Simon the Cyrenian did.
  - And the reason why is because Jesus was probably too weak to carry the weight of the cross.
- From this - we see that Jesus must've lost a substantial amount of blood.
  - So much so - that He was unable to bear the weight of the cross.
    - And though He was given a cross beam to bear - He probably collapsed under the weight of the cross...
      - ...resulting in cardiac injury - which would later be revealed by a Roman spear.

- But for now - we can conclude that Jesus needed a blood transfusion and a trauma surgeon - in order to survive.

- The Nails

- And while Jesus had already suffered from fatal wounds - His suffering wasn't over.
- As a matter of fact - we haven't even considered the crucifixion yet.
- And so - look with me there at Luke chapter 23 - verse 33 - where Luke tells us that...

Luk 23:33 ...when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

- Here in this verse - we learn that Jesus was crucified by the Romans.
- And what this means is that the Roman soldiers nailed him to the cross...
- ...with the nails piercing through His wrists - and His ankles.
- Now - imagine for a moment - the excruciating pain caused by the nails that pierced His hands and feet.
- Imagine maintaining the entirety of your body weight - being supported from these three painful points.
- And in order to breath - Jesus would need to push Himself up - from those three points - resulting in greater pain.
- It's for this reason that many victims of the cross would suffocate - before they bled to death.
- And at this point - we can be certain that Jesus was right on the threshold of death.

- The Spear

- Then - at the end of the day - the Roman soldiers pierced the heart of Jesus - with a spear.
- With this in mind - let's consider the account of the one Apostle who was there to witness the crucifixion of Jesus.
- Look with me - here at John chapter 19 - beginning there at verse 32 - where John tells us that...

Jhn 19:32 ...the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.

Jhn 19:33 But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.

Jhn 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Jhn 19:35 And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.

Jhn 19:36 For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken."

Jhn 19:37 And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

- Here in these verses - we find a soldier - stabbing Jesus in the side with a spear.
  - And according to John - blood and water poured out of the wound...
    - ...which was clear evidence that the Lord Jesus had already died.

## V. Denying the Grace

- The Reason

- Now - as we consider the Life - AND the Death of Jesus Christ - it's important that we not lose sight of the reason for the cross.
- Because - the fact is - those who deny the Life and the Death of Jesus - are simultaneously rejecting the Grace by which we can be saved.
- And in order to explain what I mean by this - I should remind you that we've all sinned...
  - ...and we've all fallen short of God's perfect standard.
  - In other words - we've all done things that deserve the punishment of the Lord.
    - For example - I'm certain that we've all lied - and I'm guessing that we've all cheated.
      - Some of us have stolen things - and there's no doubt that we've all been angry with another person without cause.
- To sum it up simply - we're all guilty of breaking God's perfect laws.
- And since God is perfect - then He must perfectly punish every sin that has ever been committed.
- Think about that for a moment - God must punish every sin we've ever committed.
  - If He doesn't - then He ends up denying His own Holy perfection.
    - And since He can't do that - God must punish every sin - no matter how big or small.
    - Every little lie must be punished - every act of disobedience - and every other sin.
      - And what this means is that - we all deserve the perfect punishment that the Lord will pour out in the fires of Hell.
- God's Grace

- And while it's true that God must perfectly punish every single sin that we've ever committed...
  - ...I should also point out that the Lord is a gracious God - Who wants every sinner to receive His everlasting love.
  - And so - rather than rushing to punish us for all of the sins that we've committed...
    - ...God created the opportunity for us to be forgiven - and He did this by sending His only begotten Son - Jesus - to die for our sins.
    - That's right - Jesus Christ came to pay the ransom price for our sins - so that we could be saved.
      - And when Jesus died upon the cross for our sins - He was receiving the punishment that we deserve...
        - ...so that we could receive the forgiveness that we don't deserve - and that's what God's grace is all about.
  - Now - the choice is ours.
    - We can choose to reject the ransom payment that Jesus made - when He died on the cross.
      - Those who do are simultaneously rejecting the love of the Lord - by which sinners can be saved.
        - As a result - those who reject the gracious love of God - will receive the punishment that they deserve.
  - The other option is to trust in the cross of Christ - because listen...
    - ...those who trust in the cross of Christ - will be set free from the snare of Satan.
      - Remember - it was there on the cross - where Jesus paid the price - so that we could be set free from our captivity.

- And now - those who trust in Him - are set free from the condemnation of the law...

- ...according to the liberty of the Lord.

- Choice

- What this means for the Christian is this - - that we can rest in the redemption of the Lord Jesus.

- The reason why is because - Jesus paid it all - - so that we could be saved from the punishment that we deserve.

- I like the way that Elvina Hall put it in her famous hymn - Jesus paid it all.

- Jesus paid it all - All to Him I owe - Sin had left a crimson stain - He washed it white as snow.

- It was on that first Good Friday - when Jesus paid the full price for our ransom.

- And now that He has - there is now no condemnation for those who trust in Jesus.

- Sadly - those who reject Jesus - are also rejecting the benefits that belong to those who trust in Him.

## VI. Conclusion

- Final Thoughts

- Call to Faith

- Please believe me when I tell you that there's coming a day when we will all stand before the Holy and Righteous Judge of Heaven and Earth.

- And it's at that point in time - when every knee will bow - and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

- Then - those who rejected the ransom payment of the Lord Jesus...
  - ...will receive the just punishment that they deserve - for every sin they ever committed.
    - Think about that for a moment - how many times have we sinned...
      - ...and what is the just punishment for all the sins we've ever committed?
  
- Hell
  - Now - I realize that there has been some debate about the eternal conscious torment of those who end up in hell.
    - And while I realize that there are those who would have us to believe that those who end up in hell - will simply cease to exist...
      - ...the Lord Jesus assured us that - those who reject His free gift of grace...
        - ...will be cast into the lake of fire - where the fire is never quenched - and the worm never dies.
          - And it's there where the smoke of their torment will continue to ascend forever and ever...
            - ...as the wrath of God is poured out on those who chose to reject the love of the Lord.
  
  - Salvation
    - In light of these things - I want to remind you that - God the Father didn't send Jesus to condemn us - no - instead...
      - ...He came to save those who deserve to be condemned - according to the just judgment of God.

Let's consider how Jesus put it - in John chapter 3 - it's beginning at verse 16 - where He declared...

Jhn 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jhn 3:17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Jhn 3:18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

- Those who reject Jesus are condemned already - - and it's for this reason that God the Father sent His only begotten Son.
  - You see - God doesn't want to condemn us - no - instead - He wants to save us from the condemnation that we deserve.
    - With this as the goal - The Father sent His Son - to pay our ransom - by receiving the punishment that we deserve.
      - And in this way - Jesus revealed the greatest love - by laying down His life - so that sinners could be saved.
        - That being the case - I encourage every unbeliever to celebrate Good Friday...
- With all of this in mind - - I want to conclude this study - by encouraging every unbeliever to turn from their sins - and trust in Jesus Christ...
  - And as you trust in the Cross of Christ - the blood of the Lord Jesus will cleanse the stain of your sin...
    - ...and in this way - you will escape the condemnation of the law - by faith in Jesus Christ.
      - Not only that - but - you will also become an adopted child of God...
        - ...who is sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise - Who also becomes the guarantee of our inheritance...

- ...until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.
- And as we consider the benefits of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ...
  - ...we can rejoice in knowing that Jesus Paid it ALL - when He died for our sins - on that first Good Friday.

## **Communion**