

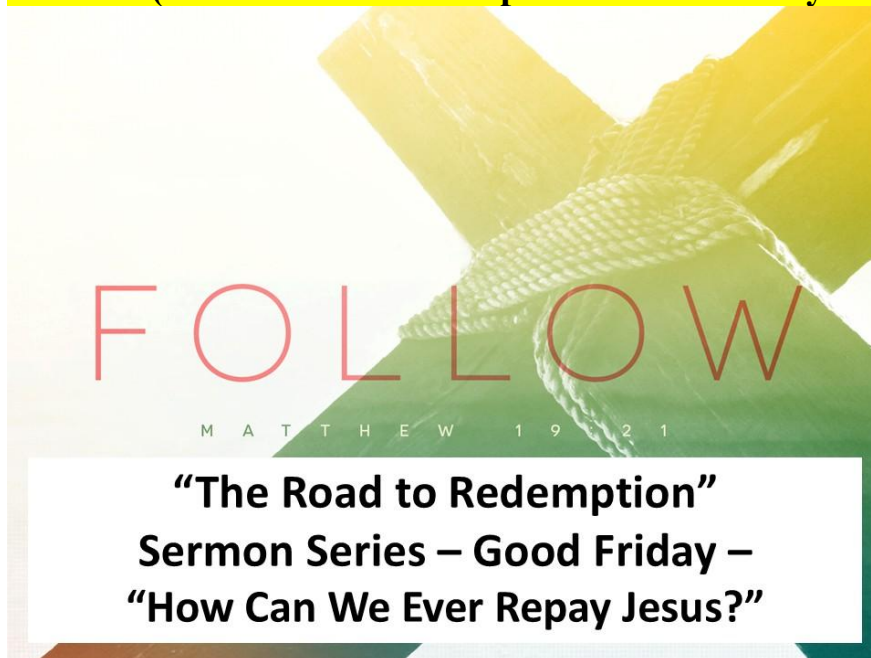
## Good Friday 04/18/25 – Panama Methodist Church

**Sermon Title:** *“The Road to Redemption” Sermon Series: Good Friday – “How Can We Ever Repay Jesus?” Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, John 18:1-19:42*

**(Slides 1-12 will be listed in order throughout this sermon 😊!)**

Tonight, our journey on “The Road of Redemption” that we have been symbolically walking together through this season of Lent, to Jesus’s cross, has led us to this very day of redemption. On this day, on this Good Friday, nearly two-thousand years ago, Jesus Christ our Lord paid the ultimate price for the sins of the world. On this day, nearly two-thousand years ago, Jesus gave everything, so that through Him we might be reconciled to God. Here is our opening slide for tonight:

**Slide 1 – (“The Road to Redemption – Good Friday” – Opening Slide”)**



I think that sometimes many of us can grapple with and spiritually wrestle with what Jesus did for us on the cross this day. Some might say that we do not deserve what Jesus did for us, which I agree with. Some might also ask, what can we do to pay Jesus back? I grew up with great parents, for example, and my parents have and continue to be such great parents. In fact, I have sometimes thought about what I could do to pay back all that they have done for me. If I were able to give them great wealth, would I then repay all of the time and all of the love that they showed me? I do not think that any amount of money can pay my parents back for what they have done for me. In other words, I cannot buy back what they have given me. In a connected way then, here is a question for us to think about tonight:

**Slide 2 – (“Is it possible to repay Jesus for what He has done for us? - Question”)**

**Is it possible to  
repay Jesus for what  
He has done for us?**

If it were possible to pay Jesus back for Him dying for us on the cross today, what would that price be? If we gave every cent we had to Jesus, our homes, our cars, and everything we owned, would that be enough? If we worked around the clock doing charitable and church works the rest of our lives, would that be enough to pay Jesus back for his death on the cross for us? What would we have to do to repay Jesus?

The easy answer my friends, is that we cannot earn the salvation that Jesus dies to offer us on this day. There is nothing that we can do to repay Jesus for what he has done for us. When Jesus is resurrected this Sunday on Easter, there is still nothing we can do to earn it. Like good and loving parents, we can love Jesus, treasure Him, and repent of our sins to Him. We can never earn what he has done for us though. No matter how much we give, no matter how many charitable deeds we have, we cannot earn salvation. Jesus offers us salvation through faith and faith alone. In fact, the Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5:1 this:

**5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Rom. 5:1, NRSV).**

All we need is faith in Christ, and God's grace, which is it. We cannot earn it, we do not deserve it, and the criminal on the cross this day that accepted Jesus got exactly what he did not deserve, grace and salvation through Jesus Christ.

Some might then push back and say then, “so we should not do good works or kind acts?” Of course we should! In fact, the great reformer Martin Luther said this about doing good works:

**"God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does"**  
(<https://theopolisinstitute.com/the-logic-of-luther/>).

We should serve and love others not to earn forgiveness and salvation, but because we have been offered grace and salvation from Christ. Since we are then changed in Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, we then have the joy to do good works out of our love for Christ.

Instead of going through the many scriptures that we read tonight bit by bit, I want to summarize them, so that we can better understand what this day, Good Friday, is all about. Here is Psalm 22:

**Slide 3 – (“Psalm 22 - Review”)**

## **Psalm 22, NRSV**

**- Psalm 22: is a lament expressing intense suffering and despair, yet also containing hope and trust in God, often interpreted as foreshadowing the suffering and death of Jesus.**

Today is a sad day, in part because Jesus Christ our Lord, suffered for our sins. Yet, Jesus willingly did this, and this was the plan for our salvation before time itself. We can also have joy and receive grace, knowing what Jesus has done for us all.

In briefly reviewing our reading from Hebrews 10:16-25, here is a good summary of this reading:

**Slide 4 – (“Hebrews 10:16-25 – Review - # 1”)**

## **Hebrews 10:16-25, NRSV**

**- Hebrews 10:16-25: emphasizes the new covenant established by Jesus, offering believers access to God with boldness and assurance.**

Slide 5 – (“Hebrews 10:16-25 – Review - # 2”)

## Hebrews 10:16-25, NRSV

- It encourages them to hold fast to their confession of hope, consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds, and not to forsake assembling together, but rather to encourage one another, especially as the day of Christ's return draws near.

Repent and believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, as we have bold and assured faith in Christ through the Holy Spirit. May we have hope, may we encourage one another in love and good deeds, and we not stop assembling together. May we encourage one another as the day of Christ's return gets closer and closer. Here is good picture of Hebrews 10:19

Slide 6 – (“Hebrews 10:19 - Picture”)



In briefly reviewing our gospel of John 18-19 reading that a group of us just read minutes ago, here is a good review of John 18-19:

**Slide 7 – (“John 18-19 – Review - # 1”)**

## **John 18-19, NRSV**

- John Chapters 18 and 19: recount Jesus's arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Jesus is arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, interrogated by Annas and Caiaphas, and then brought before Pilate.

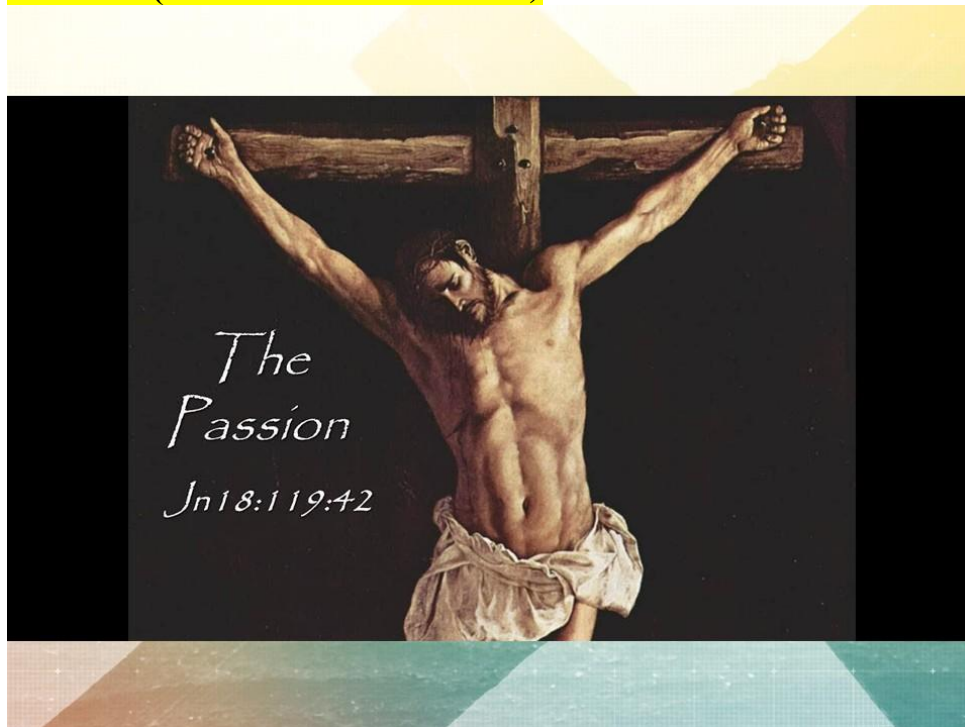
**Slide 8 – (“John 18-19 – Review - # 2”)**

## **John 18-19, NRSV**

- John chapters 18 and 19: Despite Pilate's recognition of Jesus's innocence, He is ultimately sentenced to crucifixion, which is carried out with two others. Jesus's death is described as a sacrifice, and his final words, "It is finished," highlight his completed work.

So, Jesus on this day nearly two-thousand years ago was arrested, tried, tortured, and crucified. He was interrogated, mocked, and treated like a common criminal. Even though the Roman Governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate recognized that Jesus was innocent, he still ordered that Jesus be crucified to appease the angry mob against Him. The words “It is finished,” highlights Jesus’ completed work in dying for our sins. Here is a picture connected to John 18-19:

**Slide 9 – (“John 18-19 – Picture”)**



With all of this said, how does this all apply to our lives today? I have four slides to look at, to show us why Jesus’ death on a cross for us is still important today. Here they are:

**Slide 10 – (“Application Slide # 1”)**

## **Application to Our Lives # 1**

### **Application of John 18-19:**

**1.1. Understanding Suffering and Faith:**

**2. Jesus's Suffering: John 18-19 shows Jesus bearing the weight of human sin and suffering, ultimately demonstrating the depth of God’s love and sacrifice for humanity.**

Today reminds us that sometimes we suffer for Christ, as Christ has suffered for us. Today reminds that Jesus took the full weight of human sin on his cross, and this shows us the depth of God’s love and sacrifice for humanity. Here are some more application points for this Good Friday:

**Slide 11 – (“Application Slide # 2”)**

## **Application to Our Lives # 2**

### **Application of John 18-19:**

**3. Faith in the Face of Adversity: Despite the unjust treatment and condemnation, Jesus remains steadfast in his faith and trust in the Father's plan.**

**4. Application to Life: This passage encourages believers to face their own challenges with resilience, knowing that even in difficult times, they can remain faithful and trust in God's ultimate plan.**

Even through His torture, mockery, and crucifixion, Jesus maintained his sinlessness and prayed for those who were harming him. Jesus remained steadfast to the end, and this then encourages us to maintain our faith and our hope in Christ through all the ups and downs of life.

Today is also about “The Power of Forgiveness and Reconciliation”:

**Slide 12 – (“Application Slide # 3”)**

## **Application to Our Lives # 3**

**The Power of Forgiveness and Reconciliation:**

**•Jesus's Forgiveness: Despite being condemned to death, Jesus prays for his persecutors, demonstrating the power of forgiveness and reconciliation.**

**Application to Personal Relationships: This passage encourages believers to extend forgiveness to those who have wronged them, fostering healing and reconciliation in their personal lives. The Power of Forgiveness and Reconciliation:**

No matter what, Jesus always showed love, grace, and concern for others through his arrest, trial, mockery, torture, and crucifixion on that first Good Friday. We are then called to do the same for others. Today then, on this Good Friday, Jesus lays down His life for the sins of the world. We cannot earn it, we cannot repay it, but we can accept it, accept Christ, what he has done for us, and accept the grace he offers all people so freely.

A good example of this unmerited, undeserved, and unearnable grace of God through the cross of Jesus Christ, can be seen in a short video clip that I have for us tonight. I showed this video clip on Ash Wednesday, but it is so good, that I wanted to show it again. This clip is from Pastor Alistair Begg, that you may have heard on Family Life Network on the radio. In this clip, Alistair Begg is talking about the one criminal on the cross next to Jesus that was offered salvation from Him. The criminal did not earn it, he did not deserve it, and he certainly could not pay it back. After this video, we going to sing a classic Good Friday hymn called “The Old Rugged Cross,” and anyone on the praise team is welcome come back up to the stage to sing with us. Let us watch this video clip together, happy Good Friday, and God bless you all. Amen.