

**The Rock: 04-10-2020**

**Good Friday**

**First reading:**

**Title:** Forsaken and Redeemed (Pt.1)

**Scripture:** Psalm 22 (focus 1-18)

**Theme:**

History turns on a hill outside the great city of Jerusalem. In dealing with Sin itself, my sins are forgiven. In His being forsaken that Good Friday, I am redeemed -the world itself is redeemed.

**Introduction:**

Man of sorrows - what a name - bore all of our suffering - bore all of our pain - He overcame the darkness - and walked out of the grave.

**-E.Holcolmb / D. Holcolmb**

Over the course of the Easter weekend leading us up to Resurrection Sunday, I want us to look at this Psalm through the unfolding events of Good Friday.

Psalm 22, what Derek Kinder calls: "The Psalm of the cross", written some 1,000 years or more before the events of Good

Friday, is a prophetic word written to a long-lost tune: The doe of the dawn.

It's a telling psalm, hauntingly accurate in its wording. While David was dealing with something in his life which drove him to write this, there really is nothing that we know of which can be attributed to the events he records here.

Yet, in the story of God, we need to see the Holy Spirit working through David as he writes prophetically of his "son and LORD".

### **The Story:**

Jesus spent the last part / year of his ministry telling his disciples, his closest friends, that the purpose of his life was to be his death.

But no matter how many times Jesus tried to make this clear to them, somehow, they just couldn't get their hands and heads around it.

Jesus is the Christ (The Messiah), that much they knew. But he was the messiah over their dreams, their hopes, and their deliverance. THE chosen one whom God has called to save them.

Last Sunday, if you joined us, we read about the triumphal entry of this prophet, "The Son of David".

"And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

**-Matthew 21:9 ESV**

This was the Messiah of their dreams -But the reality of this was to be far more painful. The victory ride and triumph of ultimate good over absolute evil would come at the cost of the one the people knew to be their king. The very one they were cheering!

But the week spiraled out of control as Jesus destroyed the market that had been set up in the Temple -keeping people from being able to sacrifice and meet with God.

The powers that be in the temple see right away that this rogue Rabbi must be dealt with.

"And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold, saying to them, 'It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer,' but you have made it a den of robbers.'

And he was teaching daily in the temple. The chief priests and the scribes and the principal men of the people were seeking to destroy him, but they did not find

anything they could do, for all the people were hanging on his words.”

**-Luke 19:45-48 ESV**

It seems very clear to me that Jesus seemed to like picking fights.

To challenge those in power, especially their hypocrisy. You see, God alone had given them their power and they were not using it properly.

But, in order for Jesus to win, and He would, it would have to look like he lost. The simple and strange paradox of God's Kingdom: In Meekness - Strength!

The sham of a trial takes place, held in the middle of the night after they took him from the garden, because if they brought any of this into the light of day -the false charges and accusations would never stick.

No, they had to get him into the hands of Pilate and the Romans before the people found out what was really going on.

Off to Pilate for questioning, and then the arrogance of Pilate overrules his fear AND the concerns of his wife.

“So, when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called

Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream.'

"So, when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

**-Matthew 27:17-19, 24 ESV**

He took the coward's way out, and yet, God's Sovereign will was being done in the midst of it.

It has to end this way. Pilate, Jesus told him, would have NO authority over Him, had God not given it to him.

"He (Pilate) entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above."

**-John 19:9-11 ESV**

This is the great lesson for us all. Kings and Kingdoms come and go. Their time of rule -regardless of political party, or political structure -is always in God's hands.

How those in power choose to exercise the authority given to them, is up to them. BUT, make no mistake, if God can use a talking donkey to accomplish His purposes...well I leave that with you to ponder.

Back to our story, as this day, this Good Friday is pressing onto its climax. History itself is coming to its climactic hinge moment.

As the picture of Isaiah's prophecy we saw last week now begins to unfold in real time, and the beating of Jesus comes to an end, he is hardly recognizable:

"...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not."

**-Isaiah 53:2b-3 ESV**

The crowd had gathered around for this spectacle -the crucifying of these men

today. This "Good Friday". Back to our text Psalm 22:

"For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet— I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me"

**-Psalm 22:16-17 ESV**

This was the place to be, for some, this horrific morning. Especially the powers that be. They wanted this non-submissive rogue Rabbi from the North dealt with, once and for all.

The abuse of power here -to silence those without power, is NEVER taken lightly by the King of the Universe.

Seeing him hanging there, barely human, they mock: (This is what Jesus sees and hears)

"But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; 'He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!'"

**-Psalm 22:6-8 ESV**

Yes -HE DOES DELIGHT IN HIM

"And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who

would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him."

**-Matthew 27: 39-42 ESV**

It was the LORD's will to crush Him, to bring Him grief, Isaiah would say. So, this horror, this rejection and mocking is in accordance "with His will."

Painful? Yes. Difficult? Yes. Even aggravating as we read. These very people Jesus is weeping over and asking God to forgive them are mocking Him.

So, why don't you do something LORD? Afterall, you could do anything! So why this???

Because SIN must be dealt with in order for many sons and daughters to be brought to glory, in order also, that His good creation be put back to rights.

Divine love has to be chosen, not coerced. It must be a choice, a willing sacrifice. For God so LOVED... The world must be healed in this way. It is the only way.



Otherwise love is not love, it is forced compliance -and we were not created to be robots, but rather image-bearers. Another Psalm of David tells us:

"You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas."

**-Psalm 8:6-8 ESV**

Commenting on this very thing in reflecting on Psalm 8, N.T. Wright says:

"This does not make human beings masters of creation in an arrogant or tyrannical sense. The psalm begins and ends with a great shout of praise: 'O LORD, our LORD, how majestic is your name in all the earth!' When humans take up their divinely appointed role, looking after God's world on His behalf, this is not a Promethean attempt to usurp God's role. It is the humble, obedient carrying out of the role that has been assigned."

**-The case for the Psalms Pg. 51**

This is exactly what Jesus is doing here. Divine LOVE fulfilling His divinely appointed role. Pilate, Rome, and the powers that be in Israel wanted nothing

to do with the divine mandate, and used their power to try and usurp it.

Sin - Evil -the idolatry of self-rule instead of divine love, was what was driving these men.

But then it happens: Darkness from three in the afternoon until six -Darkness reigned.

As an aside: I wonder if it wasn't in that darkness where the thief came to his senses and realized just who Jesus really was.

Can you imagine that conversation when he got to paradise? What are you doing here? Do you think you deserve to be here? No, no I don't, but the man on the middle cross told me I could come..

But they aren't there yet. In the darkness you hear Jesus cry:

"'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?'" that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'"

**-Matthew 27:46 and Psalm 22:1**

Jesus of Nazareth -fully God AND fully man, in the moment of darkness, senses something that he had never in ALL of eternity felt before. Abandonment - separation from God the Father.

You see it was at that moment 2  
Corinthians 5:21 occurred. Paul tells  
them, and us:

"For our sake he made him to be sin who  
knew no sin, so that in him we might  
become the righteousness of God."

**-2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV**

Through the very act of evil, evil IS  
defeated on that day. Divine love.

The scapegoat took upon himself the sins  
of the world, evil/sin itself was placed  
upon him.

The Father HAS TURNED HIS FACE AWAY.

Outside the city -on a hill- this Jesus,  
for us and all creation -is abandoned- in  
order that we be made righteous.

But that part of Psalm 22 is for Sunday  
morning.