

GOOD FRIDAY ROMANS 8:32 ROMANS 5:8 #448 JOHN 17:1-4 HEBREWS 9:14

TONIGHT, WE VIEW CHRST'S CRUCIFIXION THROUGH GOD'S EYES. WE SHARE WHAT GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT EACH SEE ON THE TERRIBLE REDEEMING HILL OF GOLGOTHA.

...AS OUR HEAVENLY FATHER LOOKS DOWN ON GOOD FRIDAY, HE SEES HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON SUFFERING AND DYING UNJUSTLY ON A ROMAN CROSS. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE WATCHING YOUR BELOVED SON DIE IN THIS WAY. AS A SINFUL MORTAL, YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS IN THE HEART OF THE IMMORTAL GOD AS HE WATCHES HIS IMMORTAL SON ENDURE A MORTAL'S DEATH.

GRIEF BEYOND WORDS! YET, WHAT'S MORE UNBELIEVABLE, IS THAT GOD LOVES YOU SO MUCH THAT HE WILLINGLY INFLECTS THIS ON HIS SON. YOU, SO OFTEN PUT YOURSELF BEFORE HIM; STILL, HE WATCHES HIS SON SLAUGHTERED IN YOUR PLACE. HIS RIGHTEOUS ANGER AGAINST YOUR SIN IS ABSOLVED BY HIS SON'S SACRIFICE OF LOVE – OTHERWISE, YOU MUST DIE A SINNER...FOREVER.

ON PENTECOST, PETER PREACHES: *THIS JESUS, DELIVERED UP ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITE PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD, YOU CRUCIFIED AND KILLED.* PETER ISN'T OFFERING UP SOME ANTI-JUDAIC RANT; THIS IS AN INDICTMENT ON EVERY SINNER. YOU CRUCIFIED THE SON OF GOD BY YOUR SIN.

*O CHILD OF WOE: WHO STRUCK THE BLOW THAT KILLED OUR GRACIOUS MASTER? "IT WAS I," THY CONSCIENCE CRIES, "I HAVE WROUGHT DISASTER!"*

AS YOU CONFESS YOUR SIN, YOU SEE YOURSELF NAILING JESUS TO THE TREE. AT THE SAME TIME, HIS DEATH IS ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAN. YOUR FATHER SEES HIS GLORY ON DISPLAY. JESUS IS THERE FOR YOU. THE FATHER IS NOT FORCED TO DO THIS FOR YOU; YOU ARE WORTH THIS SACRIFICE TO HIM.

THIS IS WHAT JESUS PRAYED THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS CRUCIFIXION: *GLORIFY YOUR SON THAT THE SON MAY GLORIFY YOU.* HIS FATHER SEES GLORY IN HAVING MERCY ON SINNERS RIGHT INSIDE HIS WRATH AND GRIEF.

JESUS SEES IT, TOO. HE KNOWS HE MUST BE THE OBJECT OF HIS FATHER'S WRATH, IF HE IS TO BE THE SUBJECT OF YOUR SALVATION. HE DRINKS HIS FATHER'S CUP OF JUSTICE DOWN TO ITS DREGS, CRYING OUT IN ABANDONMENT: *MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?*

HE SEES HIS FORSAKENNESS AS HIS FATHER'S LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN. HE SEES AND SUFFERS THE PAIN OF A SINNER CONDEMNED TO HELL, BUT STILL, HE LOOKS TO HIS FATHER WITH PERFECT LOVE AND TRUST. *IT IS FINISHED, FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT.*

JESUS LOOKS DOWN FROM THE CROSS TO SEE THOSE WHO CAUSE HIS WOE, AND THERE YOU ARE, LOOKING AWAY FROM HIS WOUNDS AND EXHAUSTION AND AGONY. HE DOESN'T SEE AN ENEMY; BUT ONE NEEDING PARDON AND GRACE.

HE ONLY WANTS TO BE YOUR SAVIOR. HE LOOKS AT YOU AND PRAYS, *FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.* HE STARES INTO YOUR SINFUL EYES AND SAYS: *I LOVE YOU. YOU ARE WITH ME, HERE ON THE CROSS.*

2 THE AUTHOR OF HEBREWS SAYS THAT JESUS, THROUGH THE ETERNAL SPIRIT OFFERED HIMSELF WITHOUT BLEMISH TO GOD. JESUS WAS ANOINTED WITH THE SPIRIT IN HIS BAPTISM. WE KNOW THAT THE SPIRIT IS THE HELPER, SO IT MAKES SENSE THAT HE NOT ONLY HELPED JESUS FULFILL ALL RIGHTEOUSNESS DURING HIS LIFE, BUT SUPPORTS HIM AS HE DIES FOR US.

THE HOLY SPIRIT SEES THAT EVERYTHING NEEDED FOR THE SALVATION OF SINNERS IS BEING ACHIEVED BY THE SON. JESUS, IN HIS WORDS THE NIGHT BEFORE, PROMISED: *WHEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH COMES, HE'LL GUIDE YOU INTO TRUTH. HE'LL GLORIFY ME, FOR HE'LL TAKE WHAT'S MINE AND DECLARE IT TO YOU.*

THE SPIRIT IS THERE, ON THE HILL. HE SEES IT ALL SO HE CAN INSPIRE THE APOSTLES. HE SEES YOU AND WANTS TO WHISPER COMFORT IN THEIR EARS. HE WANTS TO OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE SWEET PART OF THIS BITTER DAY. YOUR DEBT IS PAID IN FULL! THE SPIRIT NEVER QUITS OPENING EYES TO JESUS.

THE SPIRIT TAKES WHAT IS CHRIST'S AND STIRS IT INTO THE WATERS OF BAPTISM. HE MAKES IT A LIFE-GIVING WATER, RICH IN GRACE, AND A WASHING OF NEW BIRTH INTO GOD'S ETERNAL KINGDOM. HE TAKES THE FORGIVENESS OF JESUS AND DECLARES IT TO YOU THROUGH THE GOSPEL AND THROUGH THE WORDS OF ABSOLUTION. HE DRAWS YOU TO LIFE-AFFIRMING BREAD AND WINE.

ON GOOD FRIDAY, GOD SEES YOUR SALVATION FROM SIN, DEATH, AND HELL. HE SHIFTS YOUR EYES FROM THE STUFF YOU LIKE TO LOOK AT, AND HAS YOU FACE YOUR GUILT, SO YOU CAN WATCH IT DISINTEGRATE ON THE CROSS.

THE FATHER CREDITS HIS SON'S RIGHTEOUSNESS TO YOUR ACCOUNT, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, THROUGH FAITH, MAKES YOU A PARTICIPANT IN THE LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

THIS IS A SOUL-NUMBING NIGHT BECAUSE, THOUGH YOU SEE YOUR SALVATION, THE INDESCRIBABLE MERCY IS BEYOND YOUR ABILITY TO SEE. YOU HAVE LIFE FOREVER BECAUSE OF THIS. (CROSS) AMEN!