

# “GOOD FRIDAY”—PATRICK WALTON

4.10.2020

---

## “IS GOOD FRIDAY GOOD?”

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. In a day and age filled with bad news, economic instability, tumult throughout the nations, sickness, and rising death tolls here at home in the United States, why would we call the night, when the innocent, sinless, Son of God was brutally crucified in public humiliation Good Friday? Why not call it Bad Friday, or Terrible Friday?
- B. We call tonight, the night where our Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died Good Friday because as terrible as it was, it marked the dramatic culmination of God’s plan to save His people from their sins.
- C. This evening, during this 1hr service we are going to sing songs of exultation around the sacrificial death of Jesus, as well as preach about JESUS AND THE CROSS, WHY JESUS DIED, and OUR GREAT NEED FOR HIM.

### II. JESUS AND THE CROSS?

- A. For Christians and non-Christians alike we both things in common; Our two major holidays are Christmas and Easter, and our calendar is split apart again by the incarnation of Jesus Christ (BC) and Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection (AD).
- B. Nearly anything you watch on TV these days centers around what Jesus did or didn’t do. We got Jesus is my homeboy tee-shirts, crucifixion jewelry, not to mention His appearance on the Simpson’s, OLD Kayne West albums, the BC Kayne days. Jesus is on the History Channel, and about every award show known to man, Jesus is the reason of thanksgiving for these great awards.
- C. But Jesus’ death was no popular thing, like it is today among our culture. Crucifixion was invented by the Persians around 500 BC, but it was perfected by the Romans during Jesus’ day.
- D. Crucifixion was reserved for the most horrendous criminals. Even the worst Romans were beheaded rather than crucified, and the Jew’s considered death by crucifixion to be the most horrific mode of death;
  - 1. **Deuteronomy 21:22-23** “If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed by God.”
- E. The word that we use to describe the Cross is the Word excruciating, which literally means, “from the Cross.”
- F. Prior to Jesus’ death, He was scourged/flogged. This would’ve included Jesus’ hands chained above His head to expose His back for the whip. And this whip was called a “Cat-O’-nine tails.” It was a series of long leather straps with heavy metal balls at the end for the purpose of tenderizing the body of a victim like you would a steak.

- G. On some of the other straps were pieces of shard bones that were intended to dig into the shoulders and buttocks and the legs, tearing the flesh as you pulled the whip back.
- H. Jesus, after this horrific beating was then forced to carry a 100 pound roughly hewn wooden crossbar on the back of his freshly beaten, traumatized and broken body. Despite Jesus' youthful body and young age of only 33, He was so physically devastated from sleepless nights, agony in the garden, miles of walking, the flogging, that He collapsed under the weight of the Cross.
- I. Then, nearly naked and totally exposed, as a carpenter himself, having driven many nails in His day, He had 5-7 in spikes driven into His hands and feet as He was nailed to the Cross. With His beaten and weakened now fixed to the Cross, they would've stood Him up, and dropped that Cross into the hole, racking His body in unspeakable pain!
  - 1. It wasn't uncommon for victims of Crucifixion to lose their bowel movements, creating a pile of urine, sweat, blood and feces at the foot of the Cross, set about eye level, at what would be the equivalent of the entrance to the mall.

### **III. WHAT WAS JESUS ACCOMPLISHING ON THE CROSS?**

- A. Frankly, Jesus wasn't just dying for sinners, He actually BECAME SIN;
  - 1. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:21** *"For He made Him who knew no sin TO BE SIN FOR US, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ."*
- B. On the Cross, Jesus was made the worst of what we are, so that we might be made the best of what He is. This is the great exchange! It doesn't mean that Jesus sinned, it means that HE WAS MADE SIN.
- C. John Calvin rightly said regarding Jesus' substitutional death, *"at the moment that Jesus cried out because the Father had turned His eyes away, Jesus became the most wicked, ugly, defiled, evil, corrupt, rebellious and hideous creation in all of creation. Jesus became a homosexual, coveter, idol worshipper, whore, pedophile, glutton, addict, pervert, self-righteous person and anything else you can come up with."*
- D. Jesus was exchanging our imperfection with His perfection. Our disobedience with His obedience, and our distance from the Father, with His intimacy with the Father.
- E. Well, Jesus also DIED FOR US;
- F. Jesus' death was a substitutionary death because He did it in our place. He took upon Him what was due to us. He was the substitute for us. He endured separation from the Father (**Psalms 22**) so that we would never have to be separated from the Father for one second in our lives. He did this for us.
- G. This is why the power of Christianity is not like the other world religions that require people to do something for their freedom. God has done it for us. This is why we receive the grace of Jesus Christ as a free gift. We didn't do it, He did it for us. Martin Luther gave us the truth that is *by grace alone, through faith alone and in Christ alone!*
  - 1. **Isaiah 53:5** *"He was wounded for our transgressions."*

2. **Isaiah 53:12** “He poured His soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors.”
  3. **Romans 4:25** “He was delivered up for our transgressions.”
  4. **Romans 5:8** “But God shows us His love for us, that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.”
  5. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3** “Christ died for our sins.”
- H. Some protest that a loving God would never approve the bloody, unjust murder of His only Son. But this is exactly what God has done!
1. **Isaiah 53:10** “Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him, He has put Him to grief.”
  2. **John 19:10-11** “Then pilot said to Him, are you not speaking to me? Do you not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You? Jesus answered, you could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given to you from above...”
- I. One commentator rightly said, “Jesus is not to be pitied like some loser but crowned with love and admiration as the great hero of the ages. He’s a man’s man. He didn’t back out of what was in front of Him when He was given ample opportunities to say no. Instead He said yes.”

#### **IV. WHY DO WE NEED JESUS’ SACRIFICIAL DEATH?**

- A. We need His death because it strikes the final blow to man’s sin, which is grievous, separating us from a loving relationship with God.
- B. It’s interesting in this time, so many people are concerned about keeping their hands clean, wearing masks, washing everything, including their groceries when they get home.
- C. We wear the gloves, and you don’t touch anything, good! But the moment you use those gloves to touch your wallet, your phone, steering wheel, you’ve taken whatever you’ve touched with your gloves, and placed them back around something that could potentially infect you with a noval virus.
- D. The season proves to us, that even in an era of home delivers, and keeping everything extra clean, you can only keep germs away to a certain point.
- E. Im not even speaking about should you or should you not wear gloves, I’m making a point to say, regardless of how you clean yourself up, and keep your doors locked, you simply can’t live without being in a world of germs, of sin, and though you might be able to keep your hands, and mouth clean, you can’t keep your heart clean, apart from Christ...there’s not enough purel in the world to clean your heart.
- F. And though you assume you have everything in your house, and have all that you need, you simply can’t save yourself from the comfort of your home, you can’t even feed yourself from within your home, you need something outside yourself, you need something outside your home, just like you need water, you need food, you need love, you need shelter, all made up of things outside of you.
- G. Your more needy than you know, and the power of Good Friday is that it brings to bear the truest of your needs; Christ, who died in your place, wh died for your sins! **(Matt. 23:24-28)**