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| Psalm 22 (Selected Verses)John 11:45-57John 19:16b-24  | Good Friday – Celebrating Suffering | Pinelands – 9am – 07/04/2023Thornton – 10:30am – 07/04/2023 |

We are GOOD at CELEBRATING…

* Passing an exam - a Birthday
* An Anniversary - a Job well done
* A Promotion - a New car *(acquisition)*
* Confirmation - Wedding
* the result of something

We go through stages don’t we…

 Celebrating… Matric… end of school

 21st Birthdays

 Graduations

 Weddings

 50th Birthdays

BUT… What a strange notion to Celebrate Good Friday…

 To Celebrate Suffering and Death

Today is Good Friday… we are Celebrating…

*the Cross and Christ’s death…*

**As Christians** we celebrate…

The Cross and Christ’s Death *(crux of our Faith)*

 - Communion - Easter

 - Baptism - Church *(all the time)*

**- We rejoice in:**

 The Resurrection / Eternal Life / Salvation

  **BUT** - Behind that we need to look at:

- the Pain, Suffering, Struggle…

**JESUS SUFFERED SO WE CAN CELEBRATE**

Let us look at some of those SUFFERINGS:

1. Jesus **rejected** by his own people

*(not accepted as the Messiah)*

1. Jesus - constantly faced with **people trying to trap**,

 catch him out, constantly watched *(pressure)*

1. Jesus was **Betrayed, Arrested, Forsaken**

 - left alone when he needed people

1. In a form of Preliminary Trial he **was Beaten**

*(by officer of the High Priest)*

1. In the Palace of Caiaphas *(with Sanhedrin)* he was…

 **Mocked, Spat Upon, Tormented**

1. After dawn - **Condemned**  *(by Sanhedrin)*
2. **Tried by** - Pilate - Herod - Pilate again

 *(Accused, Mocked)*

1. Proved to be **second choice** *(crowds chose Barabas)*

 Was led to be Crucified - Fatigue / Pain / Despair

 **THEN CRUCIFIED**

**Jesus gave himself:**

 AS OUR SACRIFICE

- paid the price we ought to have paid…

 BUT… It is FAR MORE THAN THAT

 AS OUR RANDSOM

- to deliver us from slavery…

 BUT… It is FAR MORE THAN THAT

To DEMONSTRATE GOD’s…

Overwhelming, Never Ending,

All Encompassing, Undeserved,

Shame Bearing, Pain Carrying

Amazing…

LOVE for us

JESUS SUFFERED FOR US...

 ***... BECAUSE HE LOVED…***

…AND CONTINUES TO LOVE US

 *- You do not suffer for just anybody.*

 *- You only suffer for those whom you truly love.*

**Jesus…** **PROOVED his LOVE** for us on the Cross

***STORY is told by…***

The Arch Bishop of Paris preaching in Notre Dame Cathedral…

He said…

Early one evening…

Some jovial, uncouth and rebellious young tourists

 were walking past a Cathedral…

 then they dared one to go to the priest,

in the confessional, and make a **bogus confession.**

 The elected young man did what was required…

 Entered the confessional…

 Made a horrendous confession to make any

 persons hair stand on end.

 Priest shocked by what he heard…

 Realizing the man was lying said…

***"****My**son, you know that every confession requires a* ***penance****, and this shall be yours. Go into the chapel, kneel before the Crucifix, look up into the face of the crucified Christ and say to Him 3x…*

 *'All**this you did for me and I don't give a damn!"'*

The young man left the church to rejoin his friends…

 *Laughing and chuckling…to claim the bet…*

 **BUT…** in order for him to win…

 they wanted him to carry out the penance…

 Which he proceeded to do.

 **Went into the Cathedral, knelt at the communion rail…**

 Looked up to the Crucifix and said…

 *'All**this you did for me and I don't give a damn!’*

 **The first time was easy.**

 **The second time was more difficult…**

*'All**this you did for me and I don't give a damn!"'*

 **The third time** he broke down, could not say it…

 And his life was changed.

The Arch Bishop of Paris…

Concludes this story by saying…

 ***“I know this to be true because I was that young man”***

*(From "Thoughts Worth" by Donald E. Whitman)*

Jesus loves us so deeply that he

 was willing to SUFFER for US

 Through Christ's SUFFERING he becomes…

 our example of love

**JESUS SUFFERED SO WE CAN CELEBRATE**

***Celebrate…*** - Life - Salvation

 - Eternal life - Resurrection

- our relationship with HIM

As we Celebrate Christ’s Suffering I need to ask you this QUESTION…

 ***DO YOU GIVE A DAMN?***

**If you do…then the Challenge is…**

 ***HOW are you Celebrating***

***Christ’s Suffering?***

**Psalm 22** *(Selected Verses)*

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

I have cried desperately for help,

 but still it does not come.

But you are enthroned as the Holy One,

 the one whom Israel praises.

Our ancestors put their trust in you;

 they trusted you, and you saved them.

I am despised and scorned by everyone!

All who see me make fun of me;

 they stick out their tongues and shake their heads.

“You relied on the Lord,” they say.

 “Why doesn't he save you?

If the Lord likes you,

 why doesn't he help you?”

Do not stay away from me!

 Trouble is near,

 and there is no one to help.

Many enemies surround me like bulls;

 they are all around me,

They open their mouths like lions,

 roaring and tearing at me.

My strength is gone,

 gone like water spilled on the ground.

All my bones are out of joint;

 my heart is like melted wax.

My throat is as dry as dust,

 and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.

You have left me for dead in the dust.

An evil gang is around me;

 they tear at my hands and feet.

All my bones can be seen.

 My enemies look at me and stare.

They gamble for my clothes

and divide them among themselves.

All nations will remember the Lord.

 From every part of the world they will turn to him;

 all races will worship him.

The Lord is king, and he rules the nations.

All proud people will bow down to him;

 all mortals will bow down before him.

Future generations will serve him;

 they will speak of the Lord to the coming generation.

People not yet born will be told:

 “The Lord saved his people.”

**John 11:45-57 The Plot against Jesus**

Many of the people who had come to visit Mary saw what Jesus did, and they believed in him. But some of them returned to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. So the Pharisees and the chief priests met with the Council and said, “What shall we do? Look at all the miracles this man is performing! If we let him go on in this way, everyone will believe in him, and the Roman authorities will take action and destroy our Temple and our nation!”

One of them, named Caiaphas, who was High Priest that year, said, “What fools you are! Don't you realize that it is better for you to have one man die for the people, instead of having the whole nation destroyed?” Actually, he did not say this of his own accord; rather, as he was High Priest that year, he was prophesying that Jesus was going to die for the Jewish people, and not only for them, but also to bring together into one body all the scattered people of God.

From that day on the Jewish authorities made plans to kill Jesus. So Jesus did not travel openly in Judea, but left and went to a place near the desert, to a town named Ephraim, where he stayed with the disciples.

The time for the Passover Festival was near, and many people went up from the country to Jerusalem to perform the ritual of purification before the festival. They were looking for Jesus, and as they gathered in the Temple, they asked one another, “What do you think? Surely he will not come to the festival, will he?” The chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where Jesus was, he must report it, so that they could arrest him.

**John 19:16-24 Jesus Is Crucified**

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

So they took charge of Jesus. He went out, carrying his cross, and came to “The Place of the Skull,” as it is called. (In Hebrew it is called “Golgotha.”) There they crucified him; and they also crucified two other men, one on each side, with Jesus between them. Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross. “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews,” is what he wrote. Many people read it, because the place where Jesus was crucified was not far from the city. The notice was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The chief priests said to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but rather, ‘This man said, I am the King of the Jews.’”

Pilate answered, “What I have written stays written.”

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier. They also took the robe, which was made of one piece of woven cloth without any seams in it. The soldiers said to one another, “Let's not tear it; let's throw dice to see who will get it.” This happened in order to make the scripture come true:

“They divided my clothes among themselves

 and gambled for my robe.”

And this is what the soldiers did.