

GOOD FRIDAY: HE STAYED

April 3, 2026 | John 10:17-18 | Dave Geldart | Tru Community Church

WELCOME

1. Good evening.
2. **We've gathered tonight for what the church has long called *Good Friday***
 - a. a name that can feel almost out of place when we consider what this day remembers.
 - i. Because tonight, we are not rushing toward celebration.
 - ii. We are not skipping ahead to resolution.
 - iii. We are coming to sit in the weight of the cross.
3. **This service may be a little different than what we're used to.**
 - a. It will be a little quieter.
 - b. More reflective.
 - c. There will be space to listen, to consider,
 - i. to feel the gravity of what Jesus has done.
4. **You'll hear Scripture read**
 - a. not all at once, but in portions
 - b. allowing the story of the cross to unfold slowly.
5. **There will be moments of singing, not as performance, but as prayer.**
6. And throughout the service, we'll gradually move deeper into the darkness of this moment.
 - a. Not because darkness has the final word—but because tonight, we let it speak.
7. **As we enter this time, I want to invite you to resist the urge to analyze or rush.**
 - a. Instead, simply be present.
 - i. Let the words of Scripture settle.
 - ii. Let the songs carry you.
 - iii. Let the silence do its work.
8. **If you're a follower of Jesus,**
 - a. this is a time to remember the cost of your redemption.
9. **If you're unsure what you believe,**
 - a. We're so glad you're here.
 - b. This is a space to honestly consider the cross—what it means, and why it matters.
10. There's no pressure to respond in a certain way tonight.
 - a. Only an invitation to be present and open
11. **So now, as we begin, let's take a moment to settle ourselves.**
 - a. To slow down and quiet our hearts.
 - b. And to enter into this story

- i. not as distant observers,
- ii. but as people who are deeply, personally connected to what happened here.

12. Tonight, we remember the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

GOOD FRIDAY: “He Stayed” Sermonette:

1. There is a way to tell the story of the cross where Jesus seems mostly acted upon.
 - a. He is betrayed.
 - b. He is arrested.
 - c. He is accused.
 - d. He is beaten.
 - e. He is sentenced.
 - f. He is crucified.
2. And all of that is true.
3. But if that’s all we see, we miss something essential.
 - a. Because Jesus is not primarily a victim in this story.
 - b. He is an agent.
4. He is not simply being carried along by events—He is choosing them.
 - a. Step by step.
 - b. Moment by moment.
 - c. He is choosing the cross.
5. In John 10:17-18,
 - a. Jesus says that no one takes His life from Him, but that He lays it down of His own accord.
6. That means when the nails were driven,
 - a. this was not something happening *to* Him without His consent.
 - b. It was something He had already said *yes* to.
 - i. He chose not to run.
 - ii. He chose not to call down angels.
 - iii. He chose to stand silent before accusation.
 - iv. He chose to carry the cross.
 - v. And He chose to stay.
 - c. He stayed when it would have been easier to leave.
 - i. He stayed when He was mocked: “Come down from the cross.”

- ii. He stayed when He was misunderstood.
 - iii. He stayed when He was abandoned.
 - iv. He stayed when the sky went dark.
 - v. He stayed when the cost became unbearable.
 - d. He stayed.
- 7. And that changes how we understand this moment.
- 8. Because if Jesus is merely a victim,
 - a. then the cross is a simply tragedy of unspeakable proportions.
- 9. But if Jesus is choosing this—
 - a. If He is willingly embracing this—
 - b. then the cross becomes something else.
 - i. It becomes purpose.
 - ii. It becomes mission.
 - iii. It becomes love.
 - iv. It becomes good.
- 10. This is why we dare to call this day *Good Friday*.
 - a. Not because what happened was easy.
 - b. Not because it was painless.
 - c. Not because it was unjust—it was profoundly unjust.
- 11. It is “good” because of what Jesus was doing *through* it.
 - a. He was not losing His life—He was giving it.
 - b. He was not being overpowered—He was offering Himself.
 - c. He was not trapped—He was accomplishing something.
 - i. Something necessary.
 - ii. Something costly.
 - iii. Something we could not do for ourselves.
- 12. And this is where it becomes personal.
- 13. Because it is one thing to say, “Jesus chose the cross for us.”
 - a. It is another to say, “Jesus chose it for me.”
 - i. Not in a vague, distant sense.
 - 1. Not just for humanity in general.
 - ii. But with you in view.
 - 1. Knowing your sin.
 - 2. Knowing your patterns.

3. Knowing your failures.
 4. Knowing your shame.
 5. Knowing the parts of your story you would rather keep hidden.
- b. He did not discover those later.
 - i. He knew.
 - ii. And He stayed anyway.
14. There was never a moment on the cross where new information changed His mind.
- a. He did not get halfway through and reconsider.
 - b. He did not reach a breaking point and decide you were not worth it.
 - c. He stayed.
15. Which means the cross is not just proof that God loves *in general*.
- a. It is proof that He loves *specifically*.
 - b. Intentionally.
 - c. Knowingly.
16. He stayed... for you.
17. And that gives a kind of assurance that nothing else can.
18. Because if His love was strong enough to hold Him there,
- a. then it is strong enough to hold you now.
19. If His love did not walk away when it cost Him everything,
- a. then it is not going to walk away from you.
20. If He stayed in that moment,
- a. He is not leaving in this one.
21. And that is indeed Good News.
22. Tonight, we don't rush past this.
- a. We don't move quickly to resolution.
 - b. We don't skip ahead to Sunday.
23. We let the weight of this settle.
24. The Son of God, choosing the cross.
- a. Choosing the nails.
 - b. Choosing to stay.
25. In a moment, you'll be invited to come forward and place a flower at the foot of the cross.
- a. This isn't about adding to what Jesus has done.

b. It's not about earning anything.

c. It's not about fixing anything.

26. It's simply a response.

a. A quiet acknowledgment:

i. "He stayed... and died... for me."

b. So we come.

i. Not with answers.

ii. Not with words, necessarily.

c. Just with the recognition of what this cost...

i. and the love that held Him there.

27. And tonight, we leave it there.

a. At the cross.

b. Where He stayed.

28. I want to give you a moment to reflect—not to figure everything out, but just to be present before the cross.

a. You might come with gratitude.

b. You might come with confession.

c. You might come with questions.

d. Whatever you bring, you don't need to rush it.

29. Consider this:

a. Jesus knew everything about you... and He stayed.

b. What does that stir in you tonight?

30. Let's take a moment in silence.

a. (pause 60 seconds)

31. I'd like to invite the band to come and lead us in response.