



Why Do We Call It Good?

Good Friday... The day the kindest, most loving man who ever walked on earth was brutally murdered on a Roman cross. Why do we call it good?

Good Friday... The day a jeering mob mocked and screamed as the Son of God writhed in agony. Why do we call it good?

Good Friday... The day the sun hid in shame as the Creator of the universe gave His life because of love for rebels who had wrecked His perfect creation. Why do we call it good?

- 1) It is Good Friday because it revealed the depths of man's sin.

Much of the horror of the cross is because Jesus was killed by “good people,” not by criminals. The religious leaders who condemned Jesus to death were the best people in Jerusalem. They were chosen to lead the Jewish people because they were faithful followers of Jehovah. Jesus was killed by the best people in Jerusalem.

The Roman law was seen as a model of justice. Multiple safeguards were followed to ensure that no innocent person was executed. Jesus wasn't murdered by a lawless mob; he was executed by the best legal system of his world.

The people who mocked Jesus as he died were not criminals; they were the same people who cheered as he rode into Jerusalem just five days earlier. They went to the Temple; they loved their children; they gave to the poor; they were good people. Jesus wasn't rejected simply by the worst people in the world; he was rejected by the best people in the world.

All this demonstrates the awful “sinfulness of sin.” Before that first Good Friday, we could convince ourselves that careful religious observance and a civilized legal system could protect us from the evil in our hearts. But we can no longer fool ourselves; Good Friday showed the depths of our sin. And that truly is good! Because we cannot be saved until we know how desperately we need to be saved. Good Friday is good because it revealed the depth of our sin.

2) It is Good Friday because it revealed the depth of God's love.

On Good Friday, God showed His love not to “good people” who deserved it; instead, “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).

Good Friday shows that God's love was deep enough to share in our suffering. The angel told Joseph that the baby would be called Immanuel, “God with us” (Matt 1:23). On Good Friday, God showed that He is with us in the worst of circumstances. Even at the cost of His Son's life, He is with us.

Good Friday is good because when you are rejected by family, you can know that Jesus' own brothers rejected him. When others lie about you, you can know that Jesus was falsely accused by witnesses at his trial. When you lose a loved one in a tragic death, you can rest in the knowledge that God watched as His own Son was killed in the most painful death imaginable.

God loved us so deeply that he was willing to become “God with us.” He could have stood apart from the pain of our world, but He didn't. Instead, He sent His Son to die for us and with us. No one can raise an accusing fist at God and say, “You don't know what it's like in our world!” No one can say, “You don't understand my suffering!” God did not insulate himself from us but came among us, took our sin to himself, and died for our redemption. Good Friday is good because it shows that God is with us in the difficulties of our life.

3) It is Good Friday because it revealed the promise of the resurrection.

Simply put, there is no resurrection apart from the cross. Without the pain and loss of Good Friday, we would never have heard the angel proclaim, “He is not here for he has risen” (Matt 28:6). Without the despair of Good Friday, Peter would never have received those words of hope, “Go, tell his disciples and Peter...” (Mk 16:7). Without that death on Good Friday, you and I would never know that “because I live, you also will live” (Jn 14:19).

Good Friday was necessary for our salvation. Good Friday showed the power of death to take the life even of God's Son. But Good Friday showed the limits of death, because Jesus defeated death *through the cross*. Because of Good Friday, we have life and we “have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10).

Yes, Good Friday was painful. Yes, Good Friday was dark. But never forget, Good Friday was good.