

GOOD FRIDAY SERMON — The Savior

Greetings in the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Dear church family we must begin in the prophetic vision of Isaiah chapter 53 because Isaiah revealed the suffering Messiah the promised Servant the holy One who would enter into our sorrow and carry our judgment and Isaiah says He is despised and rejected by men a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and we hid as it were our faces from Him He was despised and we did not esteem Him surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows yet we esteemed Him stricken smitten by God and afflicted but He was wounded for our transgressions He was bruised for our iniquities the chastisement for our peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed and all we like sheep have gone astray we have turned everyone to his own way and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all and in these words we see the heart of Good Friday because the cross was not an accident it was not a tragedy outside the control of God it was not merely the result of Roman cruelty or Jewish hatred it was the eternal plan of redemption unfolding in history it was the justice of God meeting the mercy of God it was holiness confronting sin and love overcoming condemnation.

The cross shows us first the seriousness of sin because many people want the blessing of salvation without facing the ugliness of sin but if sin were small the cross would be unnecessary if human goodness were enough Calvary would never have happened if morality could save us then the blood of Christ would not have been required but the cross stands forever as God's declaration that sin is not a weakness to be excused it is rebellion against a holy God it is treason in the human heart it is the poison that corrupted creation broke fellowship with God darkened the mind hardened the heart and brought death into the world and that is why Jesus did not come only to

inspire us but to save us not only to teach us but to redeem us not only to show us love but to satisfy divine justice and until we see the greatness of our sin we will never understand the greatness of His grace.

Isaiah says He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities and this means the cross was substitution Jesus was not dying for His own crimes because He had none He was not suffering for His own sin because He was spotless He was bearing ours He stood in our place He took what we deserved so that we might receive what only He deserved He took our guilt so we could receive His righteousness He took our curse so we could receive His blessing He took our condemnation so we could receive our adoption and this is the wonder of the gospel that the innocent died for the guilty the righteous for the unrighteous the Shepherd for the sheep the Creator for the creature the King for the rebels and on Good Friday we must never look at the cross and say merely Christ died but we must say Christ died for us Christ died for me Christ carried my sin my shame my uncleanness my rebellion my pride my hidden thoughts my open failures and when that truth enters the heart deeply the cross becomes no longer a religious symbol but a place of brokenness worship repentance and wonder.

Now let us come to the seven words spoken by Jesus from the cross because these are not just final sayings from a dying man they are revelations from the Redeemer they are windows into the heart of Christ and each word speaks with eternal weight.

Luke 23:34

The first word is this Father forgive them for they do not know what they do and what amazes us immediately is that the first cry from the cross is not for judgment but for forgiveness not for fire from heaven but for mercy not for vengeance but for intercession Jesus is hanging in agony His flesh torn by scourging His hands and feet pierced by nails His head wounded by thorns

His back laid open by the whip and around Him stand mocking soldiers blind religious leaders and a confused crowd and yet from His lips comes prayer Father forgive them here is the love of Christ in its purest form because human love often collapses under pain but divine love shines brightest in suffering and Jesus prays for those who are actively crucifying Him and this tells us something glorious about our Savior He did not go to the cross with reluctance He went with mercy in His heart He did not die while cursing sinners but while pleading for sinners and what a message this is for us because some of us carry bitterness some carry old wounds some carry names and memories that still burn in the soul but Good Friday confronts us with a crucified Christ who forgives His enemies and if the Son of God can pray for His executioners then no believer can justify a heart that refuses to forgive and even more than that this first word gives hope to every sinner because if Jesus prayed for those who nailed Him to the cross then surely there is mercy for all who come to Him in repentance.

Luke 23:43

The second word is Truly I say to you today you will be with Me in paradise and here we see the triumph of grace at the edge of death one thief joins the mockery but the other is changed and in his suffering he sees what others could not see he sees a King in the dying Christ he sees innocence in the condemned One he sees hope where the world sees defeat and he cries out Lord remember me when You come into Your kingdom and Jesus answers immediately today you will be with Me in paradise not tomorrow not after many years of suffering not after a long purification but today because salvation is by grace through faith and this thief brings no good works no offerings no record of obedience no opportunity to repair his life no religious achievements and yet he is received because he comes with faith to the crucified Savior and what a mighty sermon is hidden in this single exchange that no one is beyond the reach of grace that the door of mercy remains

open until the final breath that Christ saves completely those who trust Him and that eternal life rests not on our deserving but on His mercy and perhaps on this Good Friday there are people who feel they have come too late perhaps you think your past is too stained your failures too many your sins too deep but the thief on the cross stands forever as God's witness that where repentance is real grace is greater.

John 19:26-27

The third word is Woman behold your son and to the disciple behold your mother and here at the center of agony we discover the tenderness of Jesus because even while the work of redemption is being accomplished He does not forget His mother He sees her standing there with the disciple whom He loved and in the midst of cosmic suffering He makes provision for her care what does this tell us it tells us that the Savior who carries the sin of the world still notices individual pain He is not too occupied with redemption to care for a grieving mother He is not too burdened by the cross to overlook human sorrow and this is deeply comforting because sometimes we imagine that God cares only for great spiritual matters and not for our personal tears our homes our families our daily griefs but from the cross Jesus reveals a heart that is vast enough to hold the salvation of the world and tender enough to care for one broken mother and this word also creates a new family at the foot of the cross because in Christ we become bound together not merely by blood or culture but by grace the church is born in the shadow of the cross as a community of love mutual care and covenant responsibility.

Matthew 27:46

The fourth word is the deepest cry of suffering My God My God why have You forsaken Me and here we step onto holy ground because no human mind can fully measure the depth of this moment this is not merely the cry of physical pain though His physical suffering was terrible this is the cry of

the sin bearer this is the cry from the place where the spotless Son stands under the judgment of holy wrath this is the mystery of substitution in its most terrible form that He who knew no sin was made sin for us and when Jesus cries My God My God why have You forsaken Me He is entering the darkness that sin deserves so that those who trust Him might never be forsaken by God and we must not misunderstand this as though the Trinity were broken or as though Christ lost faith no He is quoting Psalm 22 the psalm of the righteous sufferer and showing that even this agony fulfills Scripture but the reality remains that on the cross Jesus endured abandonment in the place of sinners He tasted the horror of judgment He entered the far country of condemnation He bore the silence and wrath that our iniquity had earned and because He was forsaken we can be received because He entered darkness we can walk in light because He endured separation we can be brought near and every believer must treasure this truth deeply that the cry of dereliction is the price of our adoption.

John 19:28

The fifth word is I thirst and at first it seems small compared to the others but it is not small at all because in these two words the full humanity of Christ shines before us the eternal Word through whom all things were made now hangs parched and weak the One who made the rivers thirsts the One who once cried out if anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink now Himself thirsts on the cross and here we see that our Savior is truly man He did not only appear human He entered our condition He felt pain fatigue blood loss dryness anguish and death and because He suffered truly He can sympathize perfectly with our weakness but there is more here because throughout Scripture thirst also speaks of longing and judgment and perhaps in this cry we hear not only bodily pain but the burning cost of redemption as He drinks the cup the Father gave Him to the very last drop and perhaps also we hear the thirst of divine love the longing of God for lost humanity because the

Christ who thirsted on the cross is the same Christ who still seeks the lost and calls thirsty souls to come to Him and drink and therefore the question comes to us what do we thirst for do we thirst for righteousness do we thirst for God do we thirst for holiness or have lesser things occupied the soul.

John 19:30

The sixth word is It is finished and this is not the sigh of collapse but the shout of completion not the language of defeat but of triumph the work the Father gave the Son to do has been accomplished every prophecy concerning His passion has been fulfilled every requirement of divine justice has been met every shadow of the old covenant has reached its substance every debt of all who believe has been paid in full when Jesus says It is finished He declares that the sacrifice is enough that atonement is complete that nothing can be added to His work and nothing needs to be added to His work and this is the foundation of Christian assurance because if salvation depended partly on us we would never rest if forgiveness depended on our performance we would always fear if acceptance with God depended on our religious effort we would always fail but Good Friday announces that redemption has been accomplished by Christ alone and all who trust in Him stand not in partial hope but in finished grace and church we must preach this clearly because many believers still live as though Jesus began salvation and they must complete it but the gospel says no He finished it the veil was torn the way was opened the sacrifice was accepted and the sinner who comes by faith comes to a completed redemption.

Luke 23:46

The seventh word is Father into Your hands I commit My spirit and in this final word Jesus dies as He lived in perfect trust and obedience the cross was not the triumph of man over Christ but the self-offering of the Son to the Father even death is surrendered into the hands of God and what peace there


is in this final word because after all the darkness after all the wrath after all the suffering there is still trust Father into Your hands and here Jesus teaches us how the redeemed live and how the redeemed die with confidence in the Father's hands this is surrender but not despair this is yielding but not defeat this is rest in the sovereign love of God and because Jesus entrusted Himself to the Father and rose again all who belong to Him may also entrust their lives their suffering their future and even their dying into those same faithful hands.

So what then does Good Friday demand from us first it calls us to repentance because the cross exposes sin not only in the world but in us we cannot stand before Calvary with pride we cannot look at the bleeding Christ and remain casual about evil second it calls us to faith because the crucified Savior is the only hope of sinners not our morality not our religion not our works but Christ alone third it calls us to worship because if the Son of God loved us and gave Himself for us then the only fitting response is adoration gratitude and surrendered lives fourth it calls us to forgiveness because those who have been forgiven much must forgive much fifth it calls us to hope because if Jesus has finished the work then no sin is too great for His blood no shame too deep for His mercy no bondage too strong for His power.

And let us return once more to Isaiah 53 because Isaiah says when You make His soul an offering for sin He shall see His seed He shall prolong His days and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand in other words the cross is not the end the suffering Servant will see the fruit of His travail the Lamb who was slain will receive the reward of His suffering and tonight on Good Friday we stand between sorrow and victory between the cross and the empty tomb between the cry It is finished and the shout He is risen but we do not rush too quickly past the cross we remain here long enough to behold the holy love of God long enough to feel the weight of sin long enough to hear the seven words long enough to bow our hearts before the crucified

King and say with wonder with tears and with gratitude surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows surely He was wounded for our transgressions surely by His stripes we are healed and if He loved us unto death then He is worthy of our whole lives and our whole hearts and our whole obedience forever Amen.

GOOD FRIDAY



- 1 యేసు తండ్రి, వీరేమి చేయుచున్నారో వీరెరుగరు గనుక వీరిని క్షమించుమని చెప్పెను - Luke 23:34
- 2 అందుకాయన వానితో నేడు నీవు నాతోకూడ పరదైసులో ఉండువని నిశ్చయముగా నీతో చెప్పుచున్నాననెను - Luke 23:43
- 3 అమ్మా, యిదిగో నీ కుమారుడు అని తరువాత శిష్యుని చూచి యిదిగో నీ తల్లి అని చెప్పెనుతన తల్లితో చెప్పెను - John 19:26-27
- 4 ఏలీ, ఏలీ, లామా సబ్బానానీ అని బిగ్గరగా కేకవేసెను. ఆ మాటకు నా దేవా, నా దేవా నన్నెందుకు చెయ్యి విడిచితివని అర్థము - Matthew 27:46
- 5 అటుతరువాత సమస్తమును అప్పటికి సమాప్తమైనదని యేసు ఎరిగి, లేఖనము నెరవేరునట్లు నేను దప్పిగొనుచున్నాననెను - John 19:28
- 6 యేసు ఆ చిరక పుచ్చుకొని సమాప్తమైనదని చెప్పి తలవంచి ఆత్మను అప్పగించెను - John 19:30
- 7 అప్పుడు యేసు గొప్ప శబ్దముతో కేకవేసి - తండ్రి, నీ చేతికి నా ఆత్మను అప్పగించుకొనుచున్నాననెను. - Luke 23:46