

Blog: Friday

Is Friday any good? Certainly, many of us can think of times we were happy it was Friday. After all we've managed to express our gratitude simply, "TGIF". For some of us Friday may be our favorite day of the week. Then there's others of us who work on weekends, so Friday's just another day.

Growing up, Friday was a great day during the Fall, Winter, and Spring because it was exciting to come to the end of a week of school. "What was it they were trying to teach us on Friday's? Focus now, focus, focus. Nah, it's hopeless. Looks too great outside. Got to love windows!"

This weekly Friday disease seems to get ahold of most of us at one time or another. Once it catches us it just never seems to go away.

Long lasting within my memory is something different. That's the fact every year in March or April a particular Friday became more than TGIF for families. They called it Good Friday.

Once the reason for this became clear to me, it also became a puzzle. Just why would people call the Friday on which a person was nailed to a cross "Good"? Emotionally, there may still be moments when that thought pops up in my mind. Makes me wonder if any other person has had a similar thought?

The idea of anyone being crucified on a cross is horrific all on its own. Then we may hear great numbers of people were probably crucified in the distant past by "civilized" people. Some say just the Romans alone crucified tens if not hundreds of thousands of people. That does even less to make Good Friday seem good.

It's said the Romans may have only crucified enemies of their Empire, or the worst of the criminals. Does that make crucifixion any better? My hope is we all answer, "No!"

On Good Friday the Romans flogged and crucified an enemy of Rome. His name was Jesus. His own Hebrew people arrested Him, tied Him up, ran a "kangaroo" court to find Him guilty, declared He was an enemy of Rome, and then demanded that the Romans crucify Him. If there was ever a person that was considered guilty before stepping foot before a panel of judges, it was Jesus.

Jesus had been betrayed by one of His twelve main followers. This guy had heard the words of Jesus, lived with Him as a disciple, and witnessed His many miracles. That included all the people Jesus healed, seeing Him calm storming seas, and included Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead after he'd been buried in a tomb for four days. Judas was his name, and he betrayed Jesus after experiencing the Love of Jesus that was never withheld from him.

From the world's perspective the life of Jesus was only worth the thirty pieces of silver it took to get Judas to betray Him. If any of us are interested in knowing what that's worth today, there's no answer with which most of us agree. It can be anywhere from \$190 to four months of average wages.

Of course, the silver paid will never affect the depth of the treachery of Judas' betrayal of Jesus. There's no amount of money that can be used to measure such deceit.

Given the fact that Jesus never committed the smallest offense against God, His Heavenly Father, the death of Jesus reveals the ugliest part of the power of Sin within humankind. There is no going lower, and nothing worse that could happen in this world. This demonstrated what can happen when people live-out the power of Sin within them.

Some of us may still be hard pressed to find anything good about the Friday Jesus was crucified. Those of us that have not received Jesus can have an understanding of the words, but will never know the Good about that Friday. If, however, any of us in this state of existence asks God for His forgiveness, and trusting God asks that Jesus come within them, then the Good in Good Friday will become readily apparent.

It's the Friday that the Son of God who knew no sin but became sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21) Good Friday is the day God allowed His Son to be crucified. There is no greater price that could be paid, in all of eternity, to set us free from Death and Sin. Free of an otherwise eternal separation from God, and suffering beyond our ability to understand.

Who would we prefer to pay the awful price for all our sins, Jesus, or each of us? So, we finally know what is so eternally Good about God's Good Friday. Just knowing, however, is not enough. We have to act on this knowledge and ask to receive Jesus. Then Good Friday will be Good for each of us.