

The World on Trial

Read Luke 22:62-71

Good Friday is the day of Jesus trial & crucifixion. Good because on that day our sins were judged in the body of Christ on the cross so now all who believe are forgiven. **Our** Friday begins Thur midnight – **Jews** 6 pm Thur

Some states don't like the term Good Friday and what it implies. A few years back the city of Davenport tried to change the wording and remove 'Good Friday' from the Municipal Calendar and replace it w/ 'Spring Holiday' at the request of the local Civil Rights Commission, saying it was too religious & non inclusive. It created such a uproar that it was changed back. Also Mayor John Hamilton of Bloomington Indiana renamed Good Friday to Spring Holiday for Cultural sensitivity

Push is on to change so-called offensive names at the whim of a few activist & disgruntled people. Not so w/ 'Presidents Day' – 'Martin Luther King Day' – 'Memorial Day', Muslim's Ramadan or Earth Day (April 22 marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970-taking a pager lit from Rachel Carson's N Y Times bestseller 'Silent Spring' in 1962)

Planetary Rights Commission protested Earth Day not inclusive enough, planets are upset, discriminated against—so 'Deep Space Day'.

Why is something so life changing--Good Friday, Easter, a threat? Sin & denial of it. Cain '*Am I my brothers' keeper?*' ***Abels blood cries out..***'

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Rom 3:23. Hamartia 'missing the mark' Old English game of sinner. ***6:23 The wages of sin is death...the soul that sins shall surely die.***'

In death soul & spirit separated from God (Tricomous),. Living only the flesh life, a life of pleasure...'***those who live for pleasure only are dead while they yet live.***' Dead to the spirit, dead to what you created for...to know & be known of God--to have fellowship & relationship w/ Him. His terms not ours.

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Because of sin we hide from God as A/E...*Adam where are you? I was afraid so I hid myself. Gen 3:9,10* God is not out to get you in a bad sense but a good sense

A pastor went out on Saturday to visit his church members. At one house, it was obvious that someone was home, but nobody came to the door even though the preacher knocked several times. Finally, the pastor took out his card, wrote out Rev 3:20 on the back of it, and stuck it in the door. *Behold, I stand at the door and knock, if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and fellowship w/ him and he w/ me.* The next morning in church the card turned up in the offering. Below the preacher's message was written *Gen 3:10 I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and I hid myself.*

It's a shame when we ignore the fact of our condition '*all have sinned*' and refuse the remedy--forgiveness & heaven '*the gift of God is eternal life, thru Jesus Christ our Lord.*'

Sometimes we ignore physical symptoms. *Fred Swartz. My grandfather 'Grampa please don't die I want for \$3'* Tragic when ignore the spiritual.

The spiritual cancer of sin which separates us from God has been dealt w/ by the Good News on Good Friday when Jesus cele Passover w/ disciples fulfilling OT & introducing the New—*Salvation by grace thru faith not of yourself but a gift of God.* Believing what God has done not what we can do.

And yet 'men love darkness rather than light for their deeds are evil'

From 1922-1953 Stalinism reigned in Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin. If threat to party either execution or Gulag labor camps. Estimated up to 60 million died under Stalin. At age 74 on his death bed his daughter Svetlana relates his final moments. *'The death agony was horrible. At what seemed like the very last moment he suddenly opened his eyes & cast a glance over everyone in the room. He suddenly lifted his left hand as though bringing down a curse on us all. The gesture was incomprehensible & full of menace. The next moment, after a final effort the spirit wrenched itself free of the flesh.'*

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Jesus said *'My time is at hand; I am to keep the Passover..'* specific, divinely ordained, prophetic time. **Nothing can stop it.** One will **betray**, who dips. Satan entered Judas. Cross Kidron, ¼ mll animals blood stain banks. ***Life is in the blood, w/o shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.***

In Gethsemane, sweat blood, 'If possible let cup pass...' Mob comes led by Judas w/ clubs and swords and led to Annas the HP then Caiaphas son in law HP co-ruling, waiting for daybreak.

Luke 22:63 And the men who were holding Jesus in custody were mocking Him, and beating Him,

64 and they blindfolded Him and were asking Him, saying, "Prophecy, who is the one who hit You?"

65 And they were saying many other things against Him, blaspheming.

66 And when it was day, the Council of elders of the people assembled, both chief priests and scribes, and they led Him away to their council chamber, saying,

Council is Sanhedrin. From Annas to Caiaphas for semi-private meeting before turning Him over to Sanhedrin. Illegal meeting.

Law stated only place to meet was **Temple courts**, anything outside was non-binding. Meet only in daytime between sunrise & sunset. These had gathered before, interrogated & contrived a death sentence. Rome ignored religious charges by Jews & only cases deserving death were crimes against Rome.

Luke isolates two aspects relating to the arrest and prosecution of Jesus.

Religious trial—before the Jews & the Civil trial---before Rome, Pilate

In Religious trial He is asked two questions—first....

Luke 22:67 "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe..

They asked ?'s in a way to legally bind Him—sneaky-they'd done it before. They were trying to put Him under oath so they could entrap & condemn.

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Lk20:2 Tell us by what authority you are doing these things, or who is the one who gave you this authority? I shall ask you a question and you tell me;

It was no secret Jesus claim of Messiah. Disciples declared it. Andrew to Peter ***'we have found the Messiah.'*** So many believed that ***they were intending to take Him by force and make Him king. Jn 6:15***

Israel's hope & future stated in Law & Prophets looked for coming Messiah. So Sanhedrin inquired. John Baptist somewhat confused asked from prison ***'Are you the Expected One or shall we look for someone else?'***

Sanhedrin wanted to settle the issue once & for all. Problem was they were not looking for reasons to believe but motive for their unbelief. So Jesus rejects the question and tells them why.

Luke 22:68 and if I ask a question, you will not answer.

He recalls to them a time of their dishonesty when they asked Him a question w/ malicious intentions, to entrap Him. He turned it around saying I'll answer you if you answer me. ***You be straight w/ me and I'll do the same w/ you. "How is it that they say the Christ is David's son?" And 'Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?'***

Each time they avoided answering the question so as not to show their unbelief. Hypocritical if judging Christ when they not judge themselves. No answer would satisfy so Jesus gives no answer.

Luke 22:69 "But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

Jesus answers a question He previously proposed to them. They were perplexed at the time & stood dumbfounded. He had quoted ***Ps 110*** earlier ***Lk 20:42,42 'For David himself says in the book of Psalms, The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand until I make Thy enemies a footstool for Thy feet. David therefore calls Him 'Lord', and how is He his son?'***

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They knew it was a Messianic Psalm but now Jesus saying *He would be seated at the right hand of the power of God* was declaring Himself the fulfillment of Ps 110 & Messiah. This prompted another question

Luke 22:70 And they all said, "Are You the Son of God, then?" And He said to them, "Yes, I am."

They had already decided who Jesus was, the Son of God, but wanted Him to incriminate Himself. How did they figure this out since He referred to Himself as Son of Man not Son of God? Quoting Ps 110:1 *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet."* Jesus interpreted it *But from now on the son of man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God* What did the Ps say? 'The LORD said to my Lord

Who is the LORD? David's son! The Messiah! They questioned Jesus, He questions them back and they refuse to answer who is David's son, Messiah. The dilemma; How can He be David's LORD and at the same time his son?

They were unwilling to accept the fact that God became man and was both David's LORD and son. Son of God (deity) and Son of Man (human-Messiah). When Jesus declares Himself to be the fulfillment of Ps 110 as *Son of Man*, He was by implication declaring Himself to be the other as well *Son of God*.

So with Jesus clear exposition of the Psalm, realizing its suggestion they said *are you then the Son of God?*

Jesus standing before the most powerful religious body of the day, claiming to be Messiah AND now claiming to be the Son of God. For them to find fault w/ the first question, claim to be Messiah, they'd just say He's a fraud.

But to find fault w/ this second question, His claim to be the Son of God, was blasphemous & punishable by death, which they wanted. Out to condemn Him for blaspheming is why they pushed for the second answer, self-incrimination.

Luke 22:71 And they said, "What further need do we have of testimony? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Another gospel says *Caiaphas tore his robes*, a legal act for HP as sign of outrage and horror against one who blasphemed.

Jesus declaration that He is 'The Christ, the Son of God' a statement of truth for all time & eternity. He did so before the highest religious body among the Jews. Which affirmed Peter's confession '*Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God.*'

I wonder if Peter heard any of this dialogue of Jesus before his denial. If he did, it must have intensified the feelings of guilt & shame. He swore & denied knowing the man, then Jesus eyes met Peters, went out on that Good Friday & wept bitterly.

There were two disciples in the courtyard of H.P. that night Peter and John who wrote *Jn 20:31...these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that believing you may have life in His name.*

As though John were saying my gospel confirms Peter's confession & the Lord Jesus claim that night before the Sanhedrin, He is the Christ the Son of the Living God. **Proof:** death on cross for sins **It is finished**-buried, **Raising**

Now we can say '*O death, where is your victory? O death where is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law but thanks be to God, who give us the victory thru our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor 15:55-57* **A little boy & his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Suddenly a bumblebee flew in the car window. Since the little boy was deathly allergic to bee stings he became petrified. His father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, & then released it. But as soon as he let it go, the young son became frantic once again as it buzzed by the little boy. The father sensed his son's terror. Once again he reached out his hand to his son & there, stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "You see this?" he said. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you.**