

Good Friday – A lot can happen in 3 days – April 13, 2022

True Story. Feb. 27, 1991, Desert Storm - Ruth Dillow received a message from the Pentagon that every parent of a soldier fears receiving. She was told that her son, **Clayton Carpenter**, Private 1st Class, stepped on a mine in Kuwait and was killed.

Mrs. Dillow later wrote, “I can’t begin to describe my grief and shock. It was almost more than I could bear. For 3 days I wept. For 3 days I expressed anger and loss. For 3 days people tried to comfort me, to no avail because the loss was too great.”

But- 3 days later, the telephone rang. The voice on the other side said, “Mom, it’s me. I’m alive.” Mrs. Dillow said, “I couldn’t believe it at first. But then I recognized his voice, and he was really alive.” It turned out that the message she received was a mistake! She said, “I laughed, I cried, I felt like turning cartwheels, because my son whom I thought was dead, was really alive. I’m sure none of you can even begin to understand how I felt.”

There are some who walked the pages of the New Testament that know how she felt because they experienced those same emotions.

The Disciples know what those 3 days were like.

Good Friday. Day of Death. Pain. Suffering. Saw it. Lived it. Tomb. But ... We know nothing of what happened between tomb & Sunday.

Too often, we fixate on the bad. But a lot can change in 3 days

Good Friday teaches us to change our perspective.

Dwell on the change that’s coming, Jesus doesn’t leave us same.

Dwell on love, not hate.

Dwell on victory, not defeat

Dwell on acceptance, not rejection Dwell on what’s good, not bad

Dwell on life, not death.

Dwell on the healer, not pain

Dwell on forgiveness, not mistakes. Peace, not guilt.

Dwell on your future, not past.

Dwell on hope, not despair

Dwell on Jesus...

A lot can happen in 3 days.

Phil. 4:8 – “brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

Good Friday – day Jesus died. But Sunday changed everything.

Has the Resurrection changed everything for you?

Have you found a new life? Is Jesus real?

Feb 12, 2018. Brian Hines calls 911. His wife Tina is down, not breathing. Unresponsive. Tina’s eyes were rolled back, turning purple. Jeff couldn’t find a pulse, tried cpr – then EMTs arrive. Cracked sternum, cracked ribs. Friends go to ER, pray w/ Brian. Tammy & Dave rush from LA to Phoenix. Tammy - sudden peace. Just then, Dave gets text from Brian: she’s alive. Used Defrib 1 more time – got her back. 27 min w/limited or no oxygen. Induced coma ... testing ... what happened. If she made it... brain injury? Brian is w/her. She’s vented. Tubes. Monitor. Beeping. All praying. Next day, vitals back to normal. Test – off vent. Superwoman.

Once fully conscience, put pen & paper in her hand. **It’s real.** Pain, hosp, heaven... She saw Jesus face to face. Arms open wide.

Discharged on Feb 16, **4 days later**... no impairment. Jesus is real.

He uses everything we go thru to make us better. . .

Her death gave her new life.

Something died in your life? Dream. Goal. Relationship. Person.

Fixated on pain, or hope? Jesus came to give us life, abundant. Victorious.

John 16:33 – “Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows.

But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

What we go thru connects us w/ each other. We encourage others.

Whatever you’re going thru right now know this: **a lot can happen 3 days.**

Don’t give up, look up.

Don’t stay in, hide, or, isolate... get out & see the empty tomb.

God makes something good come from every dark day.

- a. Good Friday only becomes “good” in hindsight.
- b. In hindsight we see blessings in disguise. Unanswered prayers.
- **Romans 8:28** – “And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.”
- **Ps. 30:11** – “You have turned my mourning into dancing for me; You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.”
- o The goodness of Good Friday is that **God changes things**. He made Light overcome darkness. Love won. We are overcomers, victorious.

Song of the week – “He’s Alive” by David Phelps.