

The Goodness of Good Friday – March 31, 2021

Fridays. Love them. But Good Friday? Nobody watching would call it a good day. This day seems like an unhappy celebration. An oxymoron. For many, the day is sad & it's hard to see what's good about it.

How do we find good in this day? 4 ways -

1. Know - God provides a way

- **Gen. 22:7-8** – “Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father?” “What is it, my son?” he replied. “Here is the fire and the wood,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” 8 “God will provide for himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham replied.
- Starting w/ Adam & Eve, our hearts are in the right place but we're weak - We can't live without sin, and sin keeps us from God.
- They hid. They had shame. They made excuses.
 - The goodness of Good Friday is that **God knew we needed a Savior**. He provided Jesus so we could be together.

2. Know - God doesn't want us living in shame

- **The old rugged cross & calvary** - place of shame and regret.
- **Hebrews 12:2** – “Looking to Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
 - The goodness of Good Friday is that **Jesus took our shame on Himself**. He bore it, so we don't have to.
- **Romans 10:11** – “For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”
- **1 Peter 2:6** – “For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”
 - Don't let your mistakes hold you back, separate you. Good Friday is a day to celebrate – you were made free, joined in unity.

3. Know – God loves you more than is imaginable.

- **Rom. 5:8** – “But God proves His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

- **1 John 3:1** – “See what great love the Father has given us that we should be called God’s children. And we are!”
- **Eph. 3:17-19** – “I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.”
 - o The goodness of Good Friday is that **God proved His love 4 us**. He didn’t just say it. He did it. No other religion celebrates a leader who died for them.

4. Know – 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.”
- **Jer. 31:4** – “I will rebuild you, my dear children Israel, so that you will once again be built up. Once again you will take up the tambourine and join in the happy throng of dancers.” (NET Bible)
 - o The goodness of Good Friday is that **God changes things**. He made Light overcome darkness. He showed that love wins. Love stepped forward, did what was necessary for us to be w/God.

Song of the week – “Written in Red” by Ryan Day.