

Remnant Life Church

Good Friday Service

April 3, 2026

He Did This For Me

John 19:18-37

This past Sunday we examined the main events of the week leading up to Good Friday

- Jesus arrived in Bethany the Friday before Palm Sunday (**Mark 14:3**)
 - He is staying at the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus
 - He will be using their home as His base for this final week as it is located just 2 miles outside of Jerusalem
- He enters the city that Sunday
 - Fulfilling OT prophecy (**Zech 9:9**)
 - While at the same time enflaming the religious leaders to a point that they are now actively securing a way to kill Jesus
- On Monday and Tuesday He is in Jerusalem
 - He is teaching (**Luke 20, 21**)
 - Confronting the Pharisees (**Matt 23**)
 - Overturning the money changers tables in the temple courtyard (**Mark 11:15-17**)
 - And agonizing over the spiritual deadness of His people (**Matt 23:37-39**)
- Thursday begins His journey to the cross
 - He prepares to eat the Sador; the meal in accordance with the traditions of Passover (**Mark 14:13-15**)
 - He changes the meaning of the meal to now focus on His sacrifice for all of creation
 - Judas is identified and flees the upper room (**John 13:30**)
 - Jesus washes the disciple's feet (**John 13:3-5**)
 - They go to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray (**Luke 22:39-46**)
 - And while there Judas appears with the mob of religious leaders and soldiers

Which now takes us into Friday...Good Friday

- Jesus is bound and brought to trial that same night
 - The keepers of the law do not seem to care that they are in direct violation of Jewish law
 - Something that seems much less important to them now that they have Jesus
 - The OT law forbade trials from taking place at night
 - To prevent the very thing that is happening to Jesus
 - A sham trial
 - Credible eye-witnesses must be produced
 - And the accused was permitted to defend themselves likewise with witnesses
 - But they have already decided Jesus' fate

- Jesus was denied the protection of the law as the men who came forward to accuse Him were not honorable, trustworthy men
- Finally, according to the law, anyone condemned to death had 24 hours before the sentence would be carried out
 - None of this was happening for Jesus
 - It was truly a rush to judgment and a rush to execution
- Because in a twisted sense of their selective spiritual awareness, the religious leaders knew that Jesus had to be dead by sundown on Friday
 - Because that was the start of Sabbath and none of this could take place once that began

Pontius Pilate, the ruling Sanhedrin, the high priest that year Caiaphas, the former high priest Annas, Herod Antipas are all involved

- None of those associated with Rome wanted any part of this trial
 - Pilate tried three times to distance himself finally washing his hands of any responsibility
 - Even Herod, the one that had John the Baptist beheaded, would not call for Jesus' execution
 - But Caiaphas was determined!
- And so even when offered a choice between setting Jesus or a lifelong criminal free, as was the custom at Passover, the people still called for Jesus to be crucified

And so, what did Jesus experience on that Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.?

- Much more than we could ever understand
- But all done willingly

There was of course, the physical pain and death

- The brutality and savagery of crucifixion has been well documented
 - The Romans did not invent this barbaric form of execution
 - But they had perfected it
 - The Bible references and tells some of what was done to Jesus but without the vivid detail of what truly happens to the body
- According to medical historians, the average time on the cross until death was approximately 36 hours
 - Why did it take Jesus only 6?
 - In part, it was due to the ravaged condition of His body and the incredible blood loss he suffered before even getting to the cross
 - But the time had come for Jesus to surrender His life
 - **Luke 23:46** – *Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.*
- And yet in spite of what was documented and witnessed, there were those then as there are even still today who will insist that Jesus did not die on the cross but was merely unconscious or in a coma and revived later in the tomb
 - But even the Romans were taking no chances
 - The writings of John's gospel are the only record of the soldier who ensured that Jesus was dead

John 19:18-37

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," (Psa 34:20) and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." (Zech 12:10)

The order to break the legs was to speed up death

- Asphyxiation was the most common cause of death when the accused would be unable to support the body
- If he could not push himself up to expand his lungs, he would be unable to breathe
- Jesus was already dead but because of this unusually short amount of time it took, the soldier needed to make sure
 - The thrust of the spear was aimed directly into the pericardial sac – he was, after all, experienced
 - The spear penetrated the double-layer membrane that surrounds the heart as well as the roots of the great vessels that carry the blood throughout the body
 - When he did that it removed any doubt and question of whether Jesus was dead or not
 - **John 19:34** tells us that blood and water flowed from Jesus side
 - The flow of blood and water is also seen as a symbol of redemption and spiritual renewal
 - It represents the atonement and cleansing associated with Jesus' sacrifice
 - Jesus suffered horrible physical agony on the cross but that was not all

There was also Rejection and Abandonment

- He was rejected by those He came to save
 - He was rejected by the religious leaders of the day who claimed to love His Father
 - He was abandoned by His disciples
 - He was rejected (forsaken) by His Father
 - Jesus spoke from the cross regarding this moment and they are recorded in both Matthew and Mark

- His first words spoken were those of forgiveness to those who were doing this to Him
- Then words of salvation to the thief on His one side
- But these were words cried out in anguish because of the sin He now bore on our behalf
 - *Eh-lay-hi, Eh-lay-hi, lema sabachthani*
 - Translated from the Aramaic - *My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?*
- Jesus was rejected in every conceivable way, but that was not all

He was also, perhaps most horrible of all, burdened with our sin

- Our sins were placed on Him, the One who knew no sin
 - And it was that sin, your sin, my sin that came between the Son and the Father
 - But it was the only way, as a sacrifice, to pay for our sins
 - Jesus suffered the sins of the entire world in all of time but that was not all

What Jesus did on that cross, through all that He suffered, was done with a singular purpose in mind.

- To restore the relationship of God the creator with His creation
- In love, in mercy, and for all eternity

Listen to the words of the great writer and scholar A.W. Tozer

On the mercy of God

We who earned banishment shall enjoy communion; we who deserve the pain of hell shall know the bliss of heaven. And all through the tender mercy of our God... Mercy is an attribute of God, an infinite inexhaustible energy within the divine nature which disposes God to be actively compassionate.

- And so, we leave here this evening with the knowledge of five words that provided the opportunity for the change of the very course and eternity of every life
- He Did This For Me
 - **He** – Jesus, the Son of God
 - **Did** – took action; initiated the path to forgiveness and salvation
 - **This** – suffered, died, surrendered His life
 - **For** – there was a specific purpose and divine reason to what was done
 - **Me** – a sinner, a rebel, self-centered creature who said he no longer needed the Creator; but now one who has been SAVED!
- With that truth now residing in each of our minds and hearts we come to the communion table together