

What's so good about Good Friday

John 16:1-15

...Asking the question looking at Jesus life that night—Religious leaders plot to kill Him, Judas sells Him out for 30 pcs of silver, in agony in garden loud crying-sweat grt drops of blood, arrested-kangaroo court convicts Him, Peter His close companion denying he ever knew Him, all apostles & disciples abandon Him, government finds no guilt yet scourge Him & crucify Him--yet we call it Good Friday-Good for us not so much for Him-Preparation

Jesus fulfilled Passover-God's lamb w/ His disciples, made their way to the garden of Gethsemane. On the way He teaches them about the **Holy Spirit**.

1 *“These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling.*

What things? Those things that trip up, cause to fall away. **Primarily** that the world will hate & persecute followers of Christ. *Jn 15:19 ‘because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. 20 A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...*

Jesus says expect hostility from secular sources-religious worldlings. To be forewarned is to be forearmed so not taken by surprised. **He says** there will be **shallow** believers in church-like seed sown on rocky soil who receive the word w/ joy but have no firm root-are temporary-when difficulty/persecution comes because of the word --immediately they fall away. **Mat 13:20,21**

Pliny, governor of Bithynia, was given the task of investigating citizens to see whether or not they were Christians. He wrote to his emperor Trajan to say that upon interrogation some admitted “yes at one time they had been Christians, but they ceased to be many years ago, some as much as twenty years ago.”

In spite of the courage of 1st C martyrs, it had **no affect** on that generation of rocky soil believers who fell away, unwilling to stand for Christ

One who did stand--Polycarp, pastor of the church of Smyrna was a friend & disciple of John the Apostle. At age 86 he faced death by burning & was advised by Roman authorities to deny Christ & be set free. He replied ‘Eighty & six years have I served Him & He has never denied me. How then can I blaspheme my King & my Savior?’ They said ‘we have respect for your age. Simply say ‘Away w/ the Atheist’ & be set free” Polycarp glared back at the mob gathered to watch the spectacle & said ‘Away w/ the Atheist’ pointing to the pagan crowd.’ He joyfully went to the stake, rejoicing that he be counted worthy to be among the martyrs.

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2 *“They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.*

Jn 12:42...many...of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue

Paul tells of his own radical persecution of Christians—*Acts 26:9-11...‘I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ‘And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priest, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. ‘And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; & being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.*

Fanaticism that supports the slaughter of those w/ different points of view is evil. Ten Roman Emperors in the 1st 300 years of the church are said to be responsible for an estimated 6 million believers put to death for their faith.

In 325 AD the Nicaean Council formally met & adopted crucial tenets of the Christian faith & in particular the doctrine of the Trinity & Deity of Christ. Vance Havner former Chaplain of the US Senate remarked that of the 318 delegates only about a dozen had not lost an eye or a hand or did not limp upon a leg shrunk in its sinews by the burning iron of torture.

3 *“And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me. **4** “But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.*

Jesus exposes the root of **persecution** & **censorship**-not knowing Father or Son.

Two forms of persecution are mentioned; **excommunication**-from existing religious system (Judahism-synagogue-temple). **Today**-cloths-stand-look

Death – as service to God & man Grk latreia – service of priest in temple.

A warning so not taken by surprise you saying ‘*I didn't sign up for this*’ count the cost. Today sermons not come & die but success in living, healthy & happy, wealth & prosperity, you the head not the tail, be a champion, you are a winner. Appeal to carnal nature-not to righteous living.

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Some never get off pabulum & onto meat of word. Jesus offered **rejection** and **persecution**. *Bonhoffer 'Jesus bids us to come follow Him and die'*

When Shackleton the great Artic explorer was seeking men to join him for one of his expeditions, the following ad occurred in the London newspaper. 'Men wanted for hazardous journey, small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful. Honor & recognition in case of success.' Signed Sir Ernest Shackleton, Antarctic explorer. Thousands responded instantly to the call. They were ready to sacrifice all for the privilege of following this man into the depths of danger & uncertain honor.

Why is it today pastors feel the need to **sugar-coat** the gospel in order to get followers. Dainty saint syndrome-too fragile to follow if hardship involved.

While Jesus was w/ them He was the target of attack, now they/we are.

1Pet 4:12,13 Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice w/ exultation.

5 "But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 "But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

Not only were they facing rejection & persecution but also losing Jesus.

He goes to the Father by way of the cross-tomb-resurrection-ascension.

7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment;

Jesus was limited on earth in His body to **time** & **space**. His departure into heaven & sending His Spirit allows Omnipresence-everywhere at all times.

Work of Helper-**convict** sinners of sin, **righteousness** and **judgment**.

Convict - the idea of examination of one on trial, getting them to admit wrong & pursue right-something they unwilling to do before work of HS.

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MH 'The Spirit shall convince the world of sin; not merely tell them of it. The Spirit convinces of the fact of sin; of the fault of sin; of the folly of sin; of the filth of sin, that by it we are become hateful to God; of the fountain of sin, the corrupt nature; & lastly, of the fruit of sin, that the end thereof is **death**.

Scientist & Behaviorists are bent on destroying any sense of evil, right or wrong, sinful behavior in people. Saying it's a disease or genetics or environment. Evidence? God doesn't judge me He must be approving & not interested in what I do.

Ps 50:21 These things you have done, and I kept silence; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you, and state the case in order before your eyes.

9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

Harmatia – to miss the mark – English game ***sinner--ten arrow thru hoop***

When the mob screamed for Christ crucifixion, they thought they were doing right. This same crowd 50 days later felt conviction when the Spirit thru Peter's preaching pierced their hearts ***Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?'***

10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you no longer behold Me;

Jesus told His ***disciples 'Unless your righteousness exceed that of the scribes & the Pharisees you shall in no way enter the Kingdom of Heaven'***.

Exceed? **Blameless!** The only righteousness God accepts is what we see in His son Jesus. Proof being the resurrection & ascension into presence of Father in heaven.

If you think you can live up to that standard & God will take you into heaven by your **exemplary** life--good luck. You can't & to think you can only shows how truly sinful & lost you are. ***Pride goes before destruction & a haughty spirit before a fall Pr 16:18***

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1Jn 1:8;10 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, & the truth is not in us. – Sin nature. :10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, & His word is not in us. Present condition of committing sin.

11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

A day of judgment is coming. Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

The cross judged-crushed the power of Satan. Prophecy Gen 3:15...He shall bruise/crush you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.

Col 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities , He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them thru Him.

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under His feet. 'For in subjecting all things to Him He left nothing that is not subject to Him. But now we do not yet see all things subjected to Him.

Rev 20:10 And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan: prince of the power of the air Eph 2:2....god of this world 2Cor 4:4 Jesus broke his power thru cross sin shall not be master over you...not law but grace

12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you.

The Holy Spirit tells us all we need to know about Jesus. He never says anything contrary to God's nature or abnormal to Jesus character-Chief attribute is Love. All glorifies Jesus

Holy Spirit will never make a mockery of things of God—foolish antics, create ridicule. Will never manipulate, coerce, badger, intimidate, ridicule or trick you into doing His will or believing what is not true-He Spirit of truth

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If a Christian especially a pastor is saying '*Holy Spirit told me or is doing something thru me*' but it doesn't seem right-I have to ask ? would Jesus do or say this. If not biblical or out of character of Christ I have to conclude the person is **in the flesh** & not the Spirit of Christ. Listen-He gave you His Spirit

Lock downs but Walmart, Home depot, Costco, liquor stores, abortion clinics— Churches freedom of religion no, then no singing in church

Aloha Governor Ige, Mayor Caldwell, Lt Governor Green, US Surgeon General Jerome Adams,

I've been a pastor on Oahu for 45 years. We have been instrumental in dozens of startup churches on Oahu and the neighbor Islands. Thousands of people listen or watch our bible teaching on KLHT FM 91.5 and KLHT AM 1040 and KALO TV as well as Olelo TV. You have put me in a very difficult position before God and all the people that look to me as a man of God and bible teacher. Here is the situation. We have endeavored to keep the mandates imposed during Covid-19 situation, although often arbitrary. But this current mandate of 'no singing in church' violates a greater mandate of the Bible which commands us to 'sing unto the Lord'. There are over 100 references to this directive from Exodus 15:1 to Revelation 15:3

The early church had the same dilemma when government officials shut down preaching and said '***We gave you strict orders not to teach in Jesus name, and yet you have.....'*** Acts 5:28. Peter, a Christian Apostle answered "***We must obey God rather than men***'. You have put me in a situation of violating my own conscience before God and diminishing my integrity before all those who look to me as a representative of God and His Word. Therefore, I respectfully refuse to obey the government edict and must obey God's command to "***Sing to the LORD a new song, Sing His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You ISLANDS and those who dwell on them***". Isaiah 42:10

In Christ, Pastor Bill Stonebraker, Calvary Chapel Honolulu

PS I sincerely wish government officials would look at the totality of evidence in dealing with COVID-19 in making decisions, there would be less confusion and more trust in the decision making. '<https://thenewswecanuse.com/>