

GOOD FRIDAY MESSAGE

Play VIDEO :Why I Call it Good Friday

The story is recorded in the Bible in Luke 22:66 -23:56

Let me give you a brief account of the events of this day two thousand and nineteen years (2019) ago in Jerusalem (**SLIDE 1 & 2**)

- 1) The **religious or spiritual authority** - I think they were respected wise well-meaning devout priests and lawgivers but they **vehemently accused and opposed** Jesus **and condemned him** because he made a claim to be the son of God **SLIDE 3**
- 2) These men accused him before the **Pilate** the Roman Governor of Jerusalem who represented the **civil authority** and the accusation was that he was a :
 - a) **Pervert** (because according to them he was perverting our nation)
 - b) **Tyrant (terrorist)** of the government (because according to them he was forbidding people to pay taxes to the Emperor
 - c) **A stirrer** -according to them he was stirring the people with a new way of life ,teaching
- 3) Pilate handed over Jesus to **Herod Antipas** (the governor of one of four divisions /states of Israel)who **was not interested as much for justice to be carried** out so the life of an innocent man could be spared, but who wanted to see Jesus for a long time **just to see him perform a miracle**
He and his soldiers go so far as to treat **him with contempt and they mocked and ridiculed him to no end**
- 4) **Pilate** in spite of finding no fault with him over and over did not bind himself to the very basic principle of the justice system :*you are innocent ,until proven guilty* , **gives in to the forceful demands of the religious leaders** and the **mobs of people** they incited ,and **washed his hands of a proper judgment** and gave in to their demands for the **execution of an innocent man** and instead released a rebellious and murderous man called **Barabbas** as the custom was during this Passover time
- 5) As they lead him to crucified the soldiers seize an African man ,**Simon from Cyrene (in Libya)** and put the cross on him to carry and he is led up the way of the cross through the **Via Dolorosa** to the place of Crucifixion **called Golgotha the place of the Skull (SLIDE 4 & 5)**
- 6) He is followed by a large crowd of grief stricken woman whom **he asks not to weep for him but rather weep for the impending disaster that was coming on their city** (as history records Jerusalem was ravaged and the temple destroyed about 37 years later)
- 7) At about 12 :00 noon the **King of the Jews** , who happened to be not just that but as history has proven the **king of all Nations and the King of the Universe** was unfairly executed by the cruel Roman method of **crucifixion** reserved normally for the worse of offenders as **he was condemned to die with two other criminals**

- 8) **(SLIDE 6)**The cross was hard enough but what was even harder was that even on the cross while his life ebbed out of his tortured body **he went through excruciating pain for 3 hours**, the soldiers at the foot of the cross mocked him ,scoffed at him **gambled** for his clothes and put a mocking sign over his head :King of the Jews
- 9) Even at the cross his authority was brought into question by one of the **other criminals while to the other repentant criminal** he offers grace and a promise of paradise in the next life.
- 10) During the time that the light of the World hung on the cross , **darkness fell on the whole land as the light from the sun was gone**
- 11)At about 3 pm the **curtain in the sanctuary of the temple was mysteriously torn in the middle from top to bottom**
- 12) It was about the same time Jesus committed his soul into the hands of God **,breathed his last and died**
- 13)**(SLIDE 7 & 8)** From between 3 pm -6pm a man called **Joseph** that was part of the Jewish high council ,but who had *not agreed with the decisions and actions of the other religious leaders* goes to Pilate ,asks for the body of Jesus and with the help of another member called **Nicodemus** also of the Jewish council takes the body down from the cross and laid it in a new tomb

That was the **events of a true story** of this day two thousand and 19 years ago and the story is recorded in not just the Bible but also the historical books of the day

It unfolds all **in the space of 12 hours** but it has affected the **course of eternity forever**

In fact people have tried to deny **the authenticity of the story** but have failed miserably for over 2000 years.

You will no doubt agree with me : a lot of bad things were done to a **God with skin, bones ,muscles and "those kind blue eyes and flowing Nazarene hair** , whose simple mission was to *come and to declare to mankind the blessings of our Heavenly Father ,to seek those who were lost ,to give them a life of abundant satisfaction , to be their light in times of darkness , to be their source of rest when they were weary and burdened*

Jesus was plotted against ,suffered because of the envy of religious leaders;; was hated without cause ,faced intense emotional and mental agony; suffered even though he was righteous and innocent; treated like a criminal ; faced false accusations and false witnesses; was rejected when Barabbas was chosen; was spat upon and buffeted; was mocked and ridiculed: he was killed like an animal

Killed like an animal? **Jesus was led like a lamb to the slaughter**
Illustrate (our experience in cunamallah)

But the good news is you can't keep a good man down, more so the **Son of Man** who was not afraid to lay claim that he was **the Son of God**

What the devil meant for evil, **God turned it for good.**
Because of what happened 2019 years ago we have the following and flow on benefits for mankind **TODAY**

1. Christ's death removes our sin and guilt. (Expiation): (SLIDE 9)

The guilt of our **sin was taken away from us and placed on Christ**, who discharged it by his death.

In John 1:29, John the Baptist calls Jesus "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"

Isaiah 53:6 says, "The Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him," and

Hebrews 9:26 says "He has been manifested to *put away sin* by the sacrifice of Himself."

2. Christ's death removes God's wrath upon us (Propitiation): (SLIDE 10)

By dying in our place for our sins, Christ removed the wrath of God that we justly deserved.

In fact, it goes even further: propitiation is not simply a sacrifice that removes wrath, but a sacrifice that **removes wrath and turns it into favour.**

Hebrews 2:17 says that Christ made "*propitiation* for the sins of the people"

1 John 4:10 says "in this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the *propitiation* for our sins."

3. Christ's death removes of our alienation from God. (Reconciliation) (SLIDE 11)

Because of our sins, we were *alienated* – separated — from God. Christ's death removed this alienation and thus *reconciled* us to God.

In **Romans 5:10-11**: "For if while we were enemies, we were *reconciled to God through the death of his Son*, much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved by his life."

4. Christ's death accomplished redemption for us (Redemption): (SLIDE 12)

Our sins had put us in captivity from which we need to be delivered. **The price that is paid to deliver someone from captivity is called a "ransom."**

Matthew 20:28 ... the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

There are three things we had to be released from:

- the **curse of the law**,

- the **guilt of sin**,
- And **the power of sin**.

Christ redeemed us from each of these. We are now redeemed from the power of sin - means that our slavery to sin is broken. We are now **free** to live to **righteousness as new and clean men and women**.

5. Christ accomplished all of the above benefits for us by dying *in our place* (Substitution) SLIDE 13

The reality of substitution is at the heart of the atonement. – That is, by dying *instead of us*. We deserved to die, and he took our sin upon him and paid the penalty *himself*.

Isaiah 53:5-6 .says, "he was pierced through *for our transgressions*, he was crushed *for our iniquities* . . . the Lord has caused the iniquity *of us all* to fall on him"

6. Christ's death was a defeat of the power of Satan & Darkness (Dominion) SLIDE 14

Colossians 3:15 "He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him"

Satan's only weapon that can ultimately hurt people is sin unforgiven .

Christ took this weapon away from him for all who would believe, defeating him and all the powers of darkness in his death by, "having **forgiven** us all our trespasses, by **cancelling the record of debt** that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, **nailing it to the cross**" (Colossians 2:13-14).

CONCLUSION : What does this mean for all of **YOU** TODAY and here its is in a positive CHALLENGE/reminder

1. You don't have to live under the weight of **guilt, shame and fear** - **All your sins are forgiven**
2. You have been taken out of the slavery of sin and been **given the right to live in freedom as the sons and daughters of a loving Father**
3. You can have **free access to an intimate loving relationship with God** and from there flows the basis of all other relationships
4. You **have received the gift of eternal life –you don't die ever.**
5. Sin, Darkness ,Death and the Devil **have no power over you now or forever**

Thus Easter is not about eggs and bunnies and camping **but it is the greatest love story ever told:**

- (John 15:13).Greater love has no one than this, than he lay down his life for his friends"
- For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten sonJohn 3:16

SALVATION CALL:

Jesus came to give you a life of abundance .

He came to forgive all your sins so you don't have to live with guilt and shame. He wants to now fill your life with love, joy, peace & goodness and much more He wants to give you the opportunity to live forever.

But there is one thing you have to understand is that sin, ,will destroy your life .You cannot play with sin, neither can you get rid of your sins on your own .You must **repent** of your sins

All of us have sinned and fallen short of Gods expectation and there is only one person who can save us and make us right again. His name is Jesus and you can ask him right now to come in and be the Lord in your life

If you invite him into your life everything in your life turns from death to life, sin to salvation, hopelessness into everlasting joy
I can guarantee that if you do, your life will be so more meaningful and filled with purpose and a sense of destiny!

Would you like to ask him into your life right now?

PRAYER

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Alan Pillay 190419