

# Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Good Friday – March 29, 2024

*“And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation  
to all who obey him.”*

*– Hebrews 4:9 –*

Holy week is a good time to ask the deep questions of our faith. Who is Jesus? What did He do? What does this mean for my life? These questions might not offer any new insights, but they help us to focus on Jesus Christ at a time when the world is watching. It helps us witness to this truth of Christian faith: we can’t get to the Resurrection without the Crucifixion. Perhaps this seems obvious, but most people would rather believe in the triumph of Christ and ignore the suffering. Even many Christians would rather jump from Palm Sunday to Easter.

It is easy to believe in the Resurrection. God is all-powerful; God gives life and it is no surprise that He can raise someone from the dead. We don’t expect any less from the Lord God Almighty. The proclamation of Easter brings joy and peace. Even those who do not believe in Jesus enjoy the celebration of Easter and its focus on life, renewal, and joy.

It is a lot harder to believe in Good Friday. God is all-powerful, why would His Son, our Lord Jesus, have to suffer such incredible pain and humiliation? Why did He have to die? How can any of this be good? Even if we can give the right theological answers to the questions of Good Friday, we still wonder in our hearts why it had to be this way. The world rejects the cross as foolishness; it is not surprising because even believers have a hard time understanding it.

We cannot reject the events of Good Friday, however. The crowds came looking for Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane with Judas as their guide. He betrayed Jesus with a kiss; the soldiers arrested Him. Jesus was tried, sent back and forth between the Romans and Jews; no one wanted to be responsible for a death they were convinced was necessary. He was humiliated and beaten. The people chose to set a murderous thief free rather than the King of Creation. His disciples fled, Peter denied Him. It might seem like God lost control, but it was there that we see truly see His power. Jesus’ way of being in the world caused him to be there; he was too good, too perfect for a society of sinners. We destroyed the Son of God on that horrible day. But that’s not the end of the story. . .

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