

## 50. *What's So Good About Good Friday?*

Each Easter I look at the DVD of *The Passion* with care. I do it to remind me of what Good Friday is about. Not the pink Jesus on a cheap plastic cross I see about on the walls of some homes and classrooms. Not the Jesus I can cut a deal with, but the man-God who made a horrific choice for me and you. The Romans were not into nice, the pretty sanitized images we have of the cross are a Disneyland vision of the event. Its unlikely Jesus was accorded the dignity of the loin cloth as he writhed up and down desperately for breath on that awful instrument of torture. This all added to the humiliation and today would be akin to sexual abuse. Like an insect pinned out on a taxidermist's display board but still fully alive, his body lacerated and dehydrated faced the city he loved.

YHWH was silent and seemingly absent.

In the place of God was the cesspool of all the human sin of the ages poured about him as filth. Mockery of the crowd, or the other fellow being executed too probably didn't touch him that much. His mind would be on his mother and friends. And you and me who in times of the iPod and thermonuclear weapons would look to this awful day and pronounce it Good Friday. In the garden He had argued with all his ingenuity for a way out, in the desert he had dismissed three other alternatives that the devil offered as an alternative to Calvary. He still possessed the miraculous power to end it all, as his taunting detractors at his feet had shouted, Mark 15:30-32 Abandoned, betrayed, brutalized, humiliated, and despised he hung on for you and for me

and for our students.

We do ourselves and the gospel no favour by turning the event into a safe Hollywood event, or hanging the instrument about our necks as bling. This is no oyster turning sharp intrusions into a pearl, or just another martyr. This is history being violently ripped in half, just like the temple curtain. A profound change in the heavens and in every atom of the cosmos occurred at that time.



We teachers have a sacred duty to ensure that our students are capable of giving a clear answer to our question, “What is so good about Good Friday?”

*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **1Corinthians 1:18***

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. **Galatians 6:14***

*And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. **Colossians 2:15***

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:2***

<http://www.thepassionofchrist.com/splash.htm>

<http://www.passion-movie.com/english/>