

Good Friday: April 10th

TO MAKE ALL THINGS NEW

John 19:1-37

Centering Thought

“The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, ‘Do not write THE KING OF THE JEWS, but that this man claimed to be the king of the Jews.’”

Thoughts to Consider

This, of all days, should bring us to the Scriptures to read all Matthew, Mark, Luke and John have to say about it, and then move on especially to the writings of Paul the Apostle to see again how He presents Jesus' dying in his theology and messages. This is a day to spend before His Cross and be reminded of every single detail of what He experienced there. How we enter into this Day should be different from how it leaves us at its ending.

It is also a day for fasting and prayer. Nothing should be allowed to distract us from His centrality in our hearts and learning to abandon ourselves again to such a Lord. What He went through on our behalf is to be the focus of our every thought and prayer. In the Garden He asked us to watch with Him for an hour. Today we watch with Him through the many hours of His agony over our sin.

Years ago many churches held a three-hour service on this day, usually focusing on the Seven Last Words from the Cross. But times have changed. For many this is a work day with a freeway commute and much to do. But to let this day pass without deep reflection is to lose something we cannot afford to miss. But let me warn you. The sign is out: "Caution: God Is at Work." If you linger at His Cross, your life will be changed. You will not go away the same.

Either it will increase your intimacy with Him, or it will deepen your disinterest and aloofness. It will bend you to your knees in adoration and praise, or it will leave you cooler and withdrawn to what you see. Either you will see nothing but tragedy or you will behold the love of God in action. But you will be changed. And how, depends wholly on you.

Prayer

Lord, help us see what we need most to see, the One dying to make all things new. We need to have all things made new, in our minds, feelings, and actions. Transform us into the image You desire for us — make us more like Him. In Jesus strong Name. Amen.