

# H - 180330 Holy Week Good Friday

## I. SHAME

Familiarity breeds contempt . . . or at least indifference.

And too often, we look upon Jesus crucified without any sense of what it truly represents for us and proclaims to us about God's love for us.

St. Paul simply summed up the crucifixion of Jesus with this simple but infinitely deep statement:

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Q: Romans 5:8

But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

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How can we enter again into this simple statement so that its full implication shatters our complacency and indifference, releases in us that supernova of grace that will pry loose all the spiritual parasites of sin that consume our lives and spirit and plunge us into the reality of God's

love that will leave us breathless with joy, awake and aware of an eternal newness and fullness.

Maybe, the prophet Isaiah can give us an insight that will shock us into a new awareness and sensitivity.

Listen to Isaiah describe Jesus as he hangs in desolation on that crossed piece of wood, pinned like a poster to its jagged sides.

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Q: Even as many were amazed at him so marred was his look beyond

human semblance and his appearance beyond that of the sons of man so shall he startle many nations, because of him kings shall stand speechless; for those who have not been told shall see, those who have not heard shall ponder it. . . . He was spurned and avoided by people, a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, one of those from whom people hide their faces, spurned, and we held him in no esteem.

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EX: Shamed girl

a. Some men were enraged at a father who would force his daughter to marry one of their relatives

b. Filled with malice, they then 'shamed' this man and his family by stripping his daughter naked and exposing her to the VIEW OF THE WHOLE VILLAGE WHO THEN TAUNTED AND SHAMED HER, THROWING GARBAGE AT HER as she was forced to stand there, crying and striving to cover her own nakedness.

c. Trying to comfort her after this atrocity, I became aware that 'shaming' is a type of TORTURE and

MALICE unlike any other.

d. And we practice this TORTURE, MALICE with impunity.

e. Many teens suffer this SHAME ... and commit suicide but NO ONE FEELS AS IF THE SHAMING IS ANY OFFENSE OR CRIME!

f. We shame each other with impunity!

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On the cross, JESUS HAS TAKEN TO HIMSELF OUR SHAME, PUBLICLY DISPLAYED, TO SAVE US FROM THAT VERY SHAME, MALICE.

HE WAS STRIPPED NAKED, THE LOIN CLOTH WE PLACE ON HIM IN OUR DEPICTIONS OF THE CRUCIFIXION, IS BUT A BIT OF MODESTY THAT WE IMPOSE UPON THE REALITY OF HIS CRUCIFIXION.

AND ON THAT CROSS, JESUS WAS SHAMED BEFORE THE WHOLE WORLD FOR OUR MALICE AND INDIFFERENCE.

So the prophet Isaiah cries out in agony:

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Q: Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured, while we thought of him as stricken, as one smitten by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins; upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way; but the LORD laid upon him the guilt of us all.

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## II. RESPONSIBILITY

On this day, let us for a moment be honest with ourselves and take responsibility for all the times we have shamed others, displayed their faults before others and mocked them!

It was not Jesus' shame that is displayed on the cross but OUR SHAME WHICH HE TOOK TO HIMSELF OUT OF LOVE FOR US, TO SAVE US FROM OUR OWN

# SHAMING!

When the world and our own conscience lays us naked to own guilt and shame, we can find refuge and comfort in Jesus WHO HAS ALREADY TAKEN OUR SHAME TO HIMSELF, THOUGH SHAMELESS HIMSELF!

As the Letter to the Hebrews assures us:

Q: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has

similarly been tested in every way, yet without sin. So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.

### III. GRATITUDE AND LOVE

Now, AWARE OF THE  
ASTOUNDING MEANING OF THE  
CRUCIFIX ...

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Q: John 3:14-18

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son

of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

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LET US APPROACH AND ADORE  
THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS  
PERFECTLY LOVED US AND  
LOVES US FOR ALL ETERNITY  
... WHO ALONE HAS TAKEN  
OUR SHAME AWAY FROM US  
INTO HIMSELF AND  
TRANSFIGURED THE IMAGE OF  
SHAME, THE CROSS INTO THE  
SIGN OF GLORY!