

**"CELEBRATING EASTER'S REDEMPTIVE POWER
IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY"**



"MATTHEW 27:27-31"

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**CELEBRATING EASTER'S REDEMPTIVE POWER,
BUT LIVING IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY**

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INTRODUCTION

AFTER JESUS PRAYED IN GETHSEMANE, JESUS WAS ARRESTED BY HIS ENEMIES, THE HIGH PRIESTS AND THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS.

JUDAS HAD ALREADY BEEN PAID THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER BY THE HIGH AUTHORITIES. AND HE LED THEM TO WHERE JESUS WAS AND BETRAYED HIM A KISS.

JESUS WAS TAKEN FROM ONE JUDGMENT HALL TO ANOTHER.

FINALLY JESUS WAS BROUGHT BEFORE PILATE WHO, IN ORDER TO PLEASE THE JEWS, CONSENTED FOR JESUS TO BE PUT TO DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION, ALTHOUGH PILATE FOUND NO FAULT IN JESUS;

IT WAS A VERY HUMILIATING METHOD AND HORRIFIC DEATH. YES, JESUS SUFFERED THE HORRORS OF DEATH BY CRUCIFIXION.

- 1. HOW DO YOU LIVE LIKE HE'S RISEN WHEN YOU FEEL DEAD YOURSELF?**
 - 2. HOW DO YOU DANCE FOR JOY WHEN YOU'RE KNOCKED DOWN TO THE FLOOR?**
 - 3. HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE EASTER WHEN YOU'RE LIVING IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY?**
- FOR SOME PEOPLE, THE BLANK WILL BE FILLED WITH THE NAME OF THE MIGHTY DOLLAR.**
 - FOR SOME PEOPLE, THE BLANK WILL BE FILLED WITH THE NAME OF A BOTTLE.**

- **FOR SOME PEOPLE THE BLANK WILL BE FILLED WITH THE NAME OF A CAREER.**
- **FOR SOME PEOPLE THE BLANK WILL BE FILLED WITH THE NAME OF CONFUSION OR EVEN STUPIDITY.**
- **MAYBE YOU ARE FILLING IN THE BLANK WITH THE NAME OF HATRED OR BITTERNESS, WHILE YOU'RE CELEBRATING EASTER IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.**
- **IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS MADE PROVISION FOR MY PROBLEM AND YOUR PROBLEM BY: "SENTENCING HIMSELF FOR OUR SALVATION!"**
- **GOOD FRIDAY WAS A DAY OF BETRAYAL, AND FALSE ACCUSATIONS;**

TRANSITION TO THE TEXT

IT SEEMES TO ME THAT JESUS' FRIENDS AND HIS DISCIPLES SHOULD HAVE SURROUNDED HIM AT THIS TIME.

AND, AFTER HIS OWN PEOPLE REJECTED HIM. [VERSE 27], TELLS US, "*THE SOLDIERS OF THE GOVERNOR TOOK JESUS INTO THE COMMON HALL, AND GATHERED UNTO HIM THE WHOLE BAND OF SOLDIERS.*"

JESUS WAS TAKEN FROM ONE JUDGMENT HALL TO ANOTHER, SURROUNDED BY A BATTALION OF SOLDIERS, OF SIX HUNDRED MEN;

I. THEY PROCEEDED ON GOOD FRIDAY TO MOCK HIM..

A. [VERSE 28] SAYS, "AND THEY STRIPPED HIM, AND PUT ON HIM A SCARLET ROBE."

1. THEY STRIPPED HIM OF HIS CLOTHES!

2. **THEY TRIED TO STRIP HIM OF HIS LOVE FOR MANKIND!**
3. **THEY TRIED TO STRIP HIM OF HIS DIGNITY!**
4. **THEY TRIED TO STRIP HIM OF HIS VICTORY OVER DEATH, HELL AND THE GRAVE!**
5. **THEY TRIED TO STRIP HIM OF HIS HOPE FOR EVERLASTING LIFE.**
6. **THEY TRIED TO STRIP HIM OF HIS REDEMPTIVE POWER.**
7. **THEY TRIED TO STRIP HIM OF HIS PRE-EMINENT PERSONALITY.**
8. **THEY TRIED TO STRIP HIM OF HIS SUPREME SOVEREIGNTY.**

B. [VERSE 30] “AND WHEN THEY HAD PLAITED A CROWN OF THORNS, THEY PUT IT UPON HIS HEAD, AND A REED IN HIS HAND: AND THEY BOWED THEIR KNEE BEFORE HIM.”

1. **THEY SPIT ON HIM**
2. **THEY BEAT HIM**
3. **THEY TORTURE HIM**
4. **THEY PUT A CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD**
5. **THEY POKED STICKS AT HIM.**
6. **THEY PAINFULLY BEAT HIM IN THE HEAD, BUT JESUS NEVER SAID A MURMURING WORD,**
7. **HE KEPT HIS MOUTH SHUT WHEN HE WAS MORE THAN ABLE TO DEFEND HIMSELF.**

C. NOW, MANY OF US ARE CELEBRATING EASTER BUT LIVING IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.

1. **MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD BOBBY BLUE BLAND; THE BLUES MAN SING, “*THE EAGLE FLIES ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY I GO OUT TO PLAY.*”**
2. **IF THE TRUTH WERE TOLD, MOST OF US, IF NOT ALL OF US, WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT OR TAKE CREDIT FOR THE GOOD THINGS THAT WE DO.**
3. **WHO AMONG US WOULD REFUSE AN ACCOMMODATION FROM THE MAYOR OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATE OF AMERICA?**
4. **WHICH ONE OF US WOULD REJECT A CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FOR SOME OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT WAS COMPLETED?**
5. **MOST OF US, WOULD STRAP A SMILE ACROSS OUR FACE AND SHOW ALL 32 TEETH, STICK OUT OUR CHEST, AND ACCEPT THE AWARD OR THE ACCOLADES WITH HONOR. AND SAY: LOOK WHAT A GOOD JOB I’VE DONE.**
6. **BECAUSE, IT’S ONLY HUMAN NATURE TO TAKE CREDIT FOR THE GOOD THAT YOU DO.**
7. **BUT NO ONE IS WILLING TO TAKE THE RAP (THE HEAT) FOR THE BAD THAT WE DO.**
8. **AS BAD AS IT MIGHT HURT US, NO MATTER HOW BAD THE EMBARRASSMENT OR PAIN WE HAVE TO SUFFER. THERE ARE THOSE OF US WHO WILL NOT...SUCK-IT-UP AND SAY, “ I WAS WRONG.”**

9. AND IN THE WORDS OF MY LATE UNCLE BO, HE WOULD SAY “TAKE IT ON THE CHIN LIKE A MAN,” FOR THE BAD THAT WE HAVE DONE. “

D. BUT, FEW IF ANY OF US ARE WILLING TO ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR MISTAKES.

1. IN FACT...WE HAVE COINED SEVERAL PHRASES THAT REFLECT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WRONG THAT OTHERS MAY HAVE DONE.
2. YOU’VE HEARD PEOPLE SAY? “YOU MADE YOUR BED, NOW YOU GOT TO SLEEP IN IT.”
3. IF YOU DO THE CRIME, YOU GOT TO DO THE TIME.
4. “THAT’S YOUR BABY AND NOT MINE,” SUGGESTING THAT WE ARE NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WRONG COMMITTED BY SOMEBODY ELSE.

[VERSE. 31] SAYS: “THEY CRUCIFIED HIM.”

1. HIS LIPS WERE PARCHES FOR THIRST.
2. HIS PALMS WERE PENNED TO A POST WITH NAILS.
3. HEAD CRUSHED BY A CROWN OF THORNS,
4. HIS BACK WAS BATTERED, BRUISED AND BLACKED BY WHIPS,
5. HIS BLOOD DROPPED LIKE WATER FROM HIS PIERCED SIDE,
6. THEY CRUCIFIED HIM! THE SKY GREW DARK, SHAME, ANGUISH, AND DESPAIR, AND IT ALL, HAPPENED IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.

E. THEY CRUCIFIED JESUS – THE ROMANS USED

CRUCIFIXION ONLY FOR SLAVES AND MALEFACTORS OF THE LOWEST CLASS.

1. CRUCIFIXION WAS THE CRUELEST OF PUNISHMENT. SCOURGING WITH THONGS TO HEIGHTEN THE PAIN AND THEY PRECEDED CRUCIFIXION.
2. AS JESUS HUNG ON THE CROSS NEARING DEATH AND THE AGONY OF SEPARATION FROM HIS FATHER!, HE DIED...FOR YOU AND ME ON THAT OLD RUGGED CROSS!
3. YES, CHRIST SUFFERED SO THAT THE SCRIPTURES WOULD BE FULFILLED.

F. I WANT TO ASK A QUESTION WHERE WAS EVERYBODY WHO KNEW HIM?

1. WELL, I'VE HAD THOSE CLOSE TO ME; TELL ME BROTHER PASTOR, I'LL BE WITH YOU AS LONG AS YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT, DON'T LOOK FOR ME WHEN YOU'RE CAUGHT IN THE WRONG OR GET IN TROUBLE.
2. AND THAT'S ALMOST LIKE: A DOCTOR THAT TREATS ONLY HEALTHY PATIENTS, OR A DENTIST THAT DOES NOT DEAL WITH CAVITIES;
3. OR A LIFEGUARD THAT SAYS; I'LL WATCH OVER YOU UNTIL YOU START TO DROWN;
4. OR A BODYGUARD THAT'S WILLING TO PROTECT YOU AS LONG AS NO ONE IS AFTER YOU.

II. WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY? WHEN OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST IS BEING TORMENTED AND NAILED TO A CROSS, WITH BLOOD

DRIPPING AND DYING. BUT NONE OF HIS FRIENDS ARE AROUND!

A. I REALLY, WANTED TO KNOW, WHY ARE WE “CELEBRATING EASTER’S REDEMPTIVE POWER...BUT LIVING IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD.”

1. WHY!!! BECAUSE THE EARTH GAVE HIM A CHILLING RECEPTION, WITH STATEMENTS ABOUT THE CROSS!
2. JESUS CAME FROM THE HIGHEST HEIGHTS AND HIGHEST HONOR IN HEAVEN.
3. WHEN HE WAS BORN HEAVEN HUNG OUT A NEW STAR.
4. JESUS THE LAWMAKER HAD TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE LAWBREAKERS.
5. JESUS SACRIFICES HIMSELF AND TOOK THE PLACE WHERE MAN WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.
6. HERE IS A MAN HANGING ON THE CROSS, WHO SUFFERED BLEED AND DIED FOR OUR SIN.
7. AT THE CROSS – MAN WAS GUILTY, BUT JESUS WAS INNOCENT!
8. AT THE CROSS – MAN WAS RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS SON!
9. AT THE CROSS – MAN BEHELD LOVE, JUSTICE AND THE WISDOM OF GOD!
10. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW THE “JUBILANT CELEBRATION OF GOD’S REDEMPTIVE POWER!”

**11. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW THE VERY CORE
AND HEART OF THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL!**

**12. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW JESUS
BEARING OUR SINS!**

**13. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW THE DAWN OF A
NEW DAY!**

**14. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW THE APEX OF GOD’S
WORD.**

**15. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW “VICTORY”
SNATCHED FROM THE JAWS OF DEFEAT!**

**16. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW STEPPING-STONES
TO GLORY!**

**17. AT THE CROSS – MAN SAW THE SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS!**

**18. AT THE CROSS – MEN SAW ...AND WE ARE
ASSURED THAT THERE IS A “*FOUNTAIN FILLED
WITH BLOOD!*”**

**B. OH MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TAKE AWAY THE
BLOOD OF JESUS, AND SIN WOULD DEFILE US.**

**1. BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS MAKES US
BLOSSOM!**

2. THE BLOOD OF JESUS MAKES US FREE!

3. THE BLOOD OF JESUS MAKES US JUSTIFIED!

**4. WHEN JESUS WAS HANGING ON THE CROSS
ONE-MAN CALLS IT EVIL, AND THE OTHER
CALLS IT WONDERFUL.**

**5. ONE MAN WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE
CROSS; THE OTHER WANTS NOTHING TO DO**

WITH ANYTHING ELSE BUT THE CROSS.

6. ONE MAN COULD SEE IT AS THE ULTIMATE IN CRUELTY, THE OTHER AS THE ULTIMATE IN LOVE.
7. IF THE BLOOD OF JESUS WERE NOT SHED, WE WOULD HAVE A BLOODLESS GOSPEL, AND CLOUDS OF DESPAIR AND HOPE WOULD BECOME A NIGHTMARE THAT COULD NOT SAVE US FROM ALL OF OUR SIN!

C. BUT WHEN I READ [JOHN 3:16] I GOT MY ANSWER. FOR GOD SO LOVE THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON...

1. THIS SACRIFICIAL LOVE CAN MOVE US TO “CHANGE”.
2. YOU SEE POWER AFFECTS BEHAVIOR, BUT LOVE AFFECTS THE HEART. AND NOTHING ON EARTH SO MOVES THE HEART AS SUFFERING LOVE.
3. THAT’S WHY THE PERFECT EXPRESSION OF GOD’S LOVE FOR US IS THE DYING FIGURE OF JESUS ON THE CROSS, AND HOPE, JOY AND LIFE ARE BOUND TO IT.
4. YES, WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD THROUGH THE DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.
5. CHRIST TOOK ON THE SINS OF THE WORLD, SO THAT WHAT WE PUT OUT DID NOT COME BACK TO US VOID, AND THAT OUR SINFUL NATURE DOES NOT REAP THE OBVIOUS DEATH.
6. THAT’S WHY CHRISTIANS CALL THE DAY WE COMMEMORATE JESUS’ DEATH AS "GOOD FRIDAY."

D. THAT’S WHY WE CELEBRATE EASTER’S

REDEMPTIVE POWER IN A GOOD FRIDAY WORLD.

E. IF JESUS HAD NOT DIED AND WAS NAILED TO A CROSS AND BLOOD DRIPPING, WE ALL WOULD BE ON OUR WAY TO A BURNING HELL.

F. BUT JESUS BLOOD...WRAPPED US, HELD US, WASHED US, CLEANSED US AND MADE US WHOLE!

1. HIS BLOOD HAS ALL POWER.
2. HIS BLOOD HAS EVERYTHING THAT WE EVER NEEDED OR DESIRED.
3. HIS BLOOD CAN COVER US AND KEEP US TIGHT SAFE FROM ALL HURT AND HARM.
4. HIS BLOOD CAN MAKE WOUNDED SPIRITS WHOLE.
5. HIS BLOOD CAN MAKE YOUR ENEMY LEAVE YOU ALONG.
6. HIS BLOOD CAN BLOT OUT ALL OF YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS.
7. HIS BLOOD CAN PUT VIGOR AND VITALITY IN YOUR SOUL.
8. HIS BLOOD CAN MAKE A MIDNIGHT RAMBLER AND A LATE NIGHT GAMBLER STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT.
9. HIS BLOOD CAN CAUSE PRODIGAL SONS AND WAYWARD DAUGHTERS TO CLEAN UP THEIR ACT.
10. HIS BLOOD WILL WASH US WHITE AS SNOW.
11. HIS BLOOD WILL ERASE EVERY MARK FROM YOUR LIFE.

**12. HIS BLOOD - DEATH AND RESURRECTION IS; “A
WASHING AWAY OF THE SINS OF THE WORLD.”**

**NO WONDER THE SONGWRITER PENNED THE WORDS:
“WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SINS? WHAT CAN MAKE ME
WHOLE AGAIN...NOTHING...BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS!”**

**G. OH, YES...WE'RE CELEBRATING EASTER'S
REDEMPITIVE POWER IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.**

- 1. YES, WHEN I WAS LOW DOWN AND DIRTY AND
HAD THE STINT OF SIN ON ME AND IN ME. THE
BLOOD...OF JESUS WASHED ME AND CLEANSED
ME.**
- 2. AND, THE TRUTH IS, I DON'T NEED SOMEBODY
TO COME TO MY RESCUE WHEN EVERYTHING
IS ALL RIGHT. I NEED THEM TO HELP ME,
WHEN I'M IN THE TROUBLE.**

**H. AND THAT'S WHY! I THANK GOD FOR JESUS' BLOOD,
BECAUSE WHEN I LOOK AT JESUS, AND LOOK BACK
OVER MY LIFE AND PONDER;**

- 1. ALL THE MISTAKES I'VE MADE,**
- 2. ALL THE BAD DECISION I'VE MADE,**
- 3. ALL THE DEEDS THAT I'VE DONE,**
- 4. ALL THE CONSCIOUS AS WELL AS THE
UNCONSCIOUS, THE OMISSIONS AS WELL AS
THE COMMISSIONS OF SIN AND ALL THE ACTS I
HAVE COMMITTED.**

**I. SINCE JESUS CAME INTO MY LIFE, I RISE TO TELL
YOU, WITHOUT RESERVATION, PRESERVATION OR
HESITATION THAT I CAN CELEBRATE EASTER'S
REDEMPITIVE POWER IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.**

1. BECAUSE JESUS CAME TO MY RESCUE WHEN I WAS IN THE WRONG – THAT’S WHAT EASTER IS ALL ABOUT,
2. THE RISEN SAVIOR – SAVED ME. NOT ONLY DID HE SAVE ME BUT HE RESCUED ME AND HE REDEEMED ME IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY!

III. I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL YOU *HOW* TO CELEBRATE EASTER IN A GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY. YOU MUST CHANGE YOUR MIND – TO CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

- A. BY CHANGING THE INNER ATTITUDE OF YOUR MIND YOU CAN CHANGE THE OUTER ASPECT OF YOUR LIFE.
 1. IF YOUR WORLD IS GLOOMY AND HOPELESS, IT IS BECAUSE YOU HAVE NOT CHANGED.
 2. CHANGE – DEMANDS SELF DISCIPLINE IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.
 3. CHANGE – REQUIRES THE SUBSTITUTING OF NEW HABITS FOR OLD ONES IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.
 4. CHANGE – IMPROVES OUR ESTRANGED FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.
 5. CHANGE – ADJUSTS OUR SHAMEFUL AND DISGRACEFUL LIFESTYLES IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.
 6. CHANGE – ACQUIRES FORGIVENESS AND ETERNAL LIFE FOR US IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.

7. **CHANGE** – HELPS OUR DEPLORABLE,
DISGUSTING SPIRITUAL CONDITION IN OUR
GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY.
8. **CHANGE** – REDEEMS US FROM OUR INIQUITIES
IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY

B. CHANGE – CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE
POWER OF PRAYER IN OUR GOOD FRIDAY SOCIETY!

C. I THINK I OUGHT TO TELL YOU:

1. THE **LAMB** HAS BEEN **PROVIDED**...
2. THE **BLOOD** HAS BEEN **SHED**...
3. THE **ATONEMENT** HAS BEEN **MADE**...
4. THE **DEBT** HAS BEEN **PAID**...
5. THE **LAW** HAS BEEN **FULFILLED**...
6. THE **PLAN** HAS BEEN **COMPLETED**...
7. THE **REQUIREMENT** HAS BEEN **ACCOMPLISHED**.
8. **ONLY** THE DEATH OF **JESUS**...COULD GIVE
SUCH A HOPE!
9. **ONLY** THE DEATH OF **JESUS**...COULD MAKE
SUCH A DIFFERENCE!
10. **ONLY** THE DEATH OF **JESUS**...COULD SUPPLY
SUCH A NEED!
11. **ONLY** THE DEATH OF **JESUS**...COULD REMOVE
SUCH A BURDEN!
12. **ONLY** THE DEATH OF **JESUS**...COULD FILL
SUCH A VOID!

13. ONLY THE DEATH OF JESUS... COULD CALM SUCH A FEAR!

14. ONLY THE DEATH OF JESUS... COULD FORGIVE SUCH A SIN MAN HAD COMMITTED!

- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE HE CAN TAKE THE NEGATIVE, THE NASTY, THE DIFFICULT AND THE UNPLEASANT, AND DUMP THEM IN THE GARBAGE CAN OF LIFE!
- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE OF THE GOOD NEWS!
- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE HE WIPES THE TEARS FROM MY EYES!
- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE HE SPECIALIZES IN SOLVING UNSOLVED PROBLEM!
- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE HE CAN TAKE THE IMPOSSIBLE AND MAKE IT POSSIBLE!
- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE DEATH PULLS THE PROP FROM UNDER LIFE BUT JESUS PICKS IT UP EARLY SUNDAY MORNING!
- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD WITH ALL POWER!
- I'M CELEBRATING EASTER – BECAUSE HE LIVES!