

GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION...

Who killed HIM?

Mark 15:21-15:30

Today we remember the death of our Lord and Saviour. Death is often a horrible experience. What makes our Lord's death even more horrible is that He was killed, murder by the brutal act of crucifixion.

We might well ask - who could have done such a thing? Who killed Jesus? There are many we might blame.

Perhaps we would blame the Pharisees and the religious leaders. Jesus had denounced their false worship and religion and had become a threat to them

Mat 12:14 But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus.

Was it the Law?

Jesus before the Sanhedrin.

Mark 14:53; Mark 14:55 ... How would you have felt had this been us? Offended perhaps. Who do these people think they are? I have only done good. Not just meant well, but done well. They have nothing on Me. Surely they will let me go. imagine how demoralising this was. He was in the dock, because of false testimony. There was no real, legitimate reason for Him to be in this situation.

And they tried Him.

Mark 15:1 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

Surely it was these people who killed Him.

Or was it Pilate? He was afraid to stand up to the people and He finally handed Jesus over to be hung. It was only Pilate that had the authority to condemn His life.

Or was it the crowd? How quickly they turned from following Jesus to being stirred up by the Pharisees. It was they who cried out "crucify Him, crucify Him." It was they who put the pressure on Pilate. He could not survive his position if they would rise up against him.

Was it the soldiers? They not only placed Him on the cross, but drove in the nails and mocked Him. They were the ones who took the physical action against Him.

Or was it you or me? After all, was it not for our sins that He died? If we had not sinned, His death would not have been necessary.

Who killed Jesus? The real answer is none of the above.

His Father killed Him! Perhaps this statement sounds too strong and even blasphemous? And yet God Himself says the same thing in His word:

Rom 8:32; Isa 53:10

It was God's will that His Son should suffer and die on the cross. That is why He sent Jesus to earth in the first place.

How can a Father kill His own Son? God asked Abraham to do this very thing with his son Isaac. But just as Abraham lifted the knife over the chest of his son, God spared his son and replaced the sacrifice with a lamb caught in the thicket. But God lifted the knife of death over the chest of His son, but did not spare Him, because Jesus was the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain.

Why did God kill His own Son? He did this for you and me.

2 Cor 5:21; Isa 53:5-6

God did not spare His own Son because it was by His death alone that God could spare us. Out of His great love for us, God let His Son bear the penalty of all of our sins.

And that, my friends, is hard for us to understand. But although we cannot understand such love, we can respond to it.

We can say "Thank you, God.". We can hate our sin as we see how it cost the life of our Lord and Saviour. We can make His death effective for us. We can place our trust in Him

For if God did this for you and me, is there anything greater that He could do? No, and since He did this, there is nothing less that He will do for you and me. Paul says it so well in Romans 8:31-39

This is the hope that we have in the darkness of Good Friday. That is the light which shines in the darkness. Come to the light, He's waiting for you. And walk in the light.

CONCLUSION:

Thank you, God, for your indescribable gift!