

GOOD FRIDAY

An Easter Devotional

2026

The Day Love Was Proven

Good Friday is one of the most solemn days in the Christian calendar. It's the day we remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ—the day the Son of God willingly gave His life for the sins of the world. At first glance, it seems strange that we call this day good. After all, it commemorates betrayal, injustice, suffering and death. Yet for Christians, this day is good because it reveals the deepest expression of God's love and mercy.

The events of Good Friday show us both the seriousness of sin and the greatness of God's grace. Humanity's brokenness is on full display: a close friend betrays Jesus, religious leaders plot against Him, false witnesses accuse Him, and a crowd demands His death. Roman soldiers mock Him, beat Him and nail Him to a cross. The One who healed the sick, forgave sinners and proclaimed the kingdom of God is rejected by the very people He came to save. Yet in the midst of this darkness, I see the depth of Christ's love for me. He endured the cross not only because of humanity's sin, but because of His mercy toward sinners like me. As I reflect on Good Friday, I am humbled and grateful that His sacrifice opens the way for my forgiveness and new life.

Yet Jesus responds not with anger or retaliation, but with compassion and surrender to the Father's will. Even in His suffering, He speaks words of mercy: *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* In that moment, we see the heart of the Gospel—love extended to the undeserving. Have you ever felt like you didn't deserve such amazing love? If so, Good Friday is for you. Have you ever thought or said something you hoped no one would find out about? If so, Good Friday is for you.

The cross was not an accident or merely the result of human cruelty. It was part of God's redemptive plan. Jesus Himself said that He came *"to give His life as a ransom for many."* On the cross, He took upon Himself the weight of humanity's sin. The punishment that we deserved was placed on Him. The Apostle Paul later described this mystery by saying that *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God* (2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV).

Good Friday reminds us that forgiveness is never cheap. True mercy requires sacrifice. When Jesus cried out, *"It is finished,"* He declared that the work of redemption had been completed. The debt of sin had been paid in full. What humanity could never accomplish through effort, religion or moral striving was accomplished through the sacrifice of Christ.

But Good Friday is not only about what happened long ago; it speaks into our lives today. The cross confronts us with a choice. We can ignore it, treat it as merely a historical event, or we can respond with humility and faith. When we look at the cross, we see both the depth of our need and the depth of God's love. No sin is too great to be forgiven because Christ has already paid the price. No matter where you've been or what you've done, God's love is enough.

This day also calls us to a life shaped by the same mercy we have received. If God has shown us such compassion, we are invited to extend that compassion to others—to forgive, to serve and to love sacrificially.

Good Friday may appear dark, but it's not the end of the story. The cross leads to the empty tomb. The suffering of Friday prepares the way for the victory of Easter Sunday. Because of what happened on this day, hope is possible, forgiveness is available, and new life is offered to all who believe.

And that is why, even in its sorrow, we call this day good.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, on this Good Friday, I come before You with a humble and grateful heart. You had no sin, yet You chose to carry my sin so that our relationship could be restored. I confess how much I need Your mercy—how often my heart feels weary, searching and in need of Your grace. Thank You for loving me enough to endure the cross and meet me in my brokenness rather than turning away. Help me surrender my life to You more fully, remembering the cost of my redemption and the depth of Your love. May my life quietly reflect my gratitude for the grace You have given me. Amen.