

Meditation on Good Friday/ 2026

Today is the day the 'cross=pulpit of love' was built. John indicates: Jesus was crucified on the exact time, the 'lamb was slaughtered in the Temple. The lamb, crying aloud while slaughtered, did not know the reason of its suffering, but Jesus, the lamb of God did know, why he was suffering.

1. "Cursed/damned is the one crucified" -Dt. 21:23. Only slaves, murderers, and notorious criminals were usually crucified, and very rarely any Roman citizen, because it was considered the *most brutal way of execution*. Cross, which represented the abyss of failure, was today raised to zenith of victory, when Jesus died on it; yes, the day on which Love was crucified. (The sign of humiliation turned into sign of pride, and no sign is given to humanity, cross for salvation).

2. We were listening and meditating the dramatic course of events, so contradicting each other, on the way of the cross that has turned upside down the course of history: -**the crowd** who shouted "Hosanna" soon changes it to "crucify him"; -the **disciple** Judas betraying the master with a sweet kiss;- **Peter**, the leader of 12, promising fidelity even risking his life, deliberately denies thrice the Lord;- **Pilate** -I have found no guilt in him, but condemns/ washes hands: (thus, innocent condemned and /culprit liberated)- The persecutor/centurion proclaims "Truly this man was the son of God"

Friends, is all this just something that took place 2ky ago, or something that happens every day in the society in which we live? Are those- (Peter, Pilate, Caiaphas, Simon and Veronica) just actors in the Bible, or symbol of someone-something, *attitudes within us?*

3. The journey of Jesus carrying cross to Calvary and his death, truly represents events that repeats every day in human life. *The inevitability of the cross*: is this not what Jesus meant when he said: “take up your cross and follow me”? Yes, there is no life without cross; Cross is not only sign of death but also of life. Good Friday is the day in which we recognize the ‘divine’-the divine presence in our sufferings.

4. [Bp. Fulton J. Sheen was preaching on G.F. about the love and mercy of God. At a certain point, a woman got up and asked him, “if your God was merciful, where was he when my only son miserably died in an accident?”. Bp. Replied her: “where was God, when Jesus cried out on the cross? My Godx2, why have you forsaken me”, there itself was God when your son was dying”.]

If Christ was someone who could not empathise with our suffering, this Friday never would have become “**Good Friday**”. *The deep pain and disappointment of being deserted by his followers, betrayed by one friend and denied by another. Jesus knew the shame of being publicly humiliated, falsely accused and sentenced to death. Jesus experienced the feeling of being forgotten by God as He suffered the agony in the garden and on the cross. Being one like us in all things but sin, He was no stranger to human love and human pain. **Nothing that is human is alien to Jesus.*** (Is 53:4/He took upon, though his wound, we are healed)

5. Roma-Quo Vadis-Via Appia: Peter escapes from Rome, fearing persecution: Jesus, in the bush, appears to his and asks: “Peter Quo vadis?; where are you going? Peter turns and walk back., to Rome where trail and death await him.

Quo Vadis? Where are you going? This is God's question to you and me, to everyone, who wants to get down from cross and escape. Only when Peter was crucified upside down on the cross that he understood: the only way to life is cross.

Friends, **avoiding Cross is the greatest temptation ever.** "If you are son of God., come down from the cross, save yourself and us...was the greatest challenge for Jesus. (*and he knew well that he is the son of God*). Getting down from the cross, escaping pain, is our daily temptation too.

6. Every day, we get up and go to bed by making sign of the cross, we carry cross around the neck and do stations of the cross: We should above all feel proud, by making sign of the cross in our hearts, by humbly accepting our daily trails and like Simon helping others to carry their crosses. "*he who knows the why of suffering, knows the how of suffering*". **Good Friday is not a sad Friday, but the day of victory of the one who win over the cross with love**; Good Friday is the promise of resurrection. Let's wait for the glory of His resurrection. "We adore you Christ and we praise you, because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world" Amen!