

Creative Reading of Good Friday

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Good Friday was dark...

A night, and day of...

Eating

Praying

Fatigue

Anguish

Betrayal...

Swordplay

Healing

Shackling

Mocking

Spitting

Hitting

Condemning

Lashing

Bleeding

Belittling

Nailing

Suspending

Saving

Gambling

Suffocating

DEATH

(SELAH)

I don't know that I'll ever get this...

There was a man.

If you can get this—a sinless man.

A devout, religious man.

Since he was a boy---raised in the church.

An ordinary-looking, devout, sinless man who hung out in church.

Had compassion for:

Poor people.

Sick, dying, and dead people.

Maimed people.

Oppressed people.

Possessed people.

Marginalized people.

Struggling people.

And *don't-know-God* people.

I mean, even if you're not into God, how do you not love a man like that?

And He taught this new doctrine of beauty and love like none had done before. He said,

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all
kinds of evil against you --- because of Me.

(SELAH)

Help me here---this Man—who said those beautiful words—beautiful prophetic
truths--this Man—who was so humble—this...

Sinless

Devout

Church-raised

Healing

Loving

Accepting of ALL kinds of people, Man...

This is the guy—the church leaders want to destroy??

You're telling me that when the people could choose ONE MAN to set free—they
chose BARABBAS—the revolutionary and murderer—MURDERER--Barabbas?

Can we think about this?!—don't you want to spare the life of the Man...

Who healed 2 blind beggars?

Who blessed children?

Who healed the demon-possessed boy?

Who healed a man with the disfiguring, flesh-eating disease of leprosy?

Who healed a Roman officer's servant?

Who brought Lazarus and Jairus' daughter back from the dead?

No?... Free the murder...Barabbas...

(SELAH)

Ok, so what are we going to do with Jesus?

This sinless healer.

This devout man who was raised in the church and taught in the church, who
loved people who were unlovable and people who didn't know God?

What are we going to do with Him?

We're going to let the murderer go free... and Jesus...we're going to...flog Him with a led-tipped whip...

and then what???

We're going to have this bloody,
sinless,
devout,
compassionate Man...
drag His own cross through Jerusalem...up to Skull Hill—Golgotha....

What?...That wasn't enough?...Then we'll have Roman soldiers drive huge icy spikes into the hands that healed...

And then hammer excruciating spikes into the feet...that His mother, Mary, no doubt kissed and tickled as a new born babe...

the same Mary that now watches in horror...as these same feet...are impaled with a bone-jarring, gut-wrenching ... spike...

Of course...we'll let the sinless, healing, devout, compassionate Man...hang there... naked...bloody... until He slowly...minute by minute...agonizingly suffocates ...to death.

This sinless man,
raised in church,
taught in church,
who healed,
saved,
showed compassion,
this loving, accepting Man...

beaten...

mocked...

nailed...

crucified... by His own people.

(SELAH)

What?! (astonished)

He *chose* it?

Why, in God's name? (for you)

What??

So that *I* could live? ...

So that *they* could live?...

So that every tribe and kind of person could live!

So that we could know God.

So that we could know Grace.

So that we could know healing.

So that we could share compassion.

So that we could love the unlovable.

So that we could feed the hungry.

So that we could comfort those who mourn.

So that we could forgive the guilty.

So that we could be peacemakers in an angry world.

So that we could die to ourselves and gain Christ.

So that we could rejoice when just one lost son or daughter comes home.

So that we could hunger and thirst to live like Jesus Christ!

(SELAH)

That's a great idea...so that we never lose this story.

So that we never forget what happened to Christ on this day, so many years ago.

So that we always remember what made our life possible...

We'll eat this bread...

to remind us that a sinless body was broken for us.

And will drink from the cup...

to remind us that once and for all...

Jesus' blood paid for the sins of many—

A new covenant---one last sacrifice...the blood of Jesus, once for all time.

And now I invite you—if you are in a relationship with the Son of Man who endured the first Good Friday---

To make your way to the communion tables...and take it on your own.