

Devotions with Matt

April 9, 2020

This devotion was written by a group of fellow students and me a few years back as we reflected on the 7 Statements of Christ on the Cross. May they be an encouragement to you as we approach Good Friday.

FREEDOM

Prayer of Preparation

Heavenly Father,

I offer you my life today. Help me to slow down and listen to You. Please speak into my very being whatever you want me to hear today and transform me more into your likeness from our time spent together. Help me to be obedient to follow through with whatever you ask of me.

Amen.

Statement from the Cross #6

Jesus said, "It is finished." John 19:30

Thoughts of a Fellow Sojourner

For all of us, death is inevitable. At some point, our mortal life will come to an end, and we will move forward in the direction we have chosen. All too often, we tell people around us to live with purpose because life is short, and we never know what may happen. This fact, leaves a nagging question in my heart. "How often do we tell people to die with purpose?" You see, I fully believe that Jesus lived with purpose, but he also died with purpose. He knew that his entire life was lived for one reason: To glorify his Father. Everything he did was a direct command from God. Even his death was so that his Father could be elevated and once again have relationship with his greatest creation. Jesus' purpose was that we might find freedom in the glory of a God who loved us so much that he gave his ultimate gift for us; His only Son. Jesus knew his purpose. He lived his purpose and he died with a purpose. His words, "it is finished" were nothing more than a declaration of that purpose. All of his pain, all of his suffering, all of his trials were over. He was experiencing freedom with his mission accomplished. He was reuniting with his Father, but it was not just a homecoming for him, but a homecoming for all the saints. Jesus' death brought freedom to us all. His simple phrase was nothing more than a declaration. Evil had lost, Good had won, and his purpose had been fulfilled. His Father was the most powerful being in the universe, and Jesus had proven it. He brought freedom to the captives, he removed the chains, and he paid our fee. As a result, He has freedom in the Father, we have freedom in the Father, and the world has freedom in the Father. These two words were the most powerful Jesus ever said because he declared freedom over the powers of evil, he declared victory and he established new life built on the foundation of freedom from sin, evil, and darkness. He died with a purpose. **FREEDOM!**

Moment of Reflection

Take some time in silence for reflection and listen to what God wants to speak into you today.

In Christ ~ Fellow Sojourners

