

DENAIR FRIENDS CHURCH

Devotions with Matt

April 10, 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.

OBEDIENCE

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 #7

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

Thoughts of a Fellow Sojourner

I look around the world today and see so many bad things that are happening. I am angry about them. I see the senseless killing of children at Sandy Hook Elementary School and I am angry. I pick up the newspaper and see genocide in the Sudan and innocents being killed in suicide bombings in Iraq and I am angry about them. Just the other day two bombs went off at the Boston Marathon killing three and wounding many who were simply gathering to cheer on their loved ones. I am angry about it.

What I am angry about the most is that none of this should ever have happened. All of these things are caused by sin and sin should not even be in the world. If only Adam and Eve would have simply obeyed God in the Garden of Eden and ate from the Tree of Life and not from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It really wasn't the tree that caused sin to stain their souls. It wasn't the tree that caused death to be their final outcome. It was the act of disobedience against God that caused their "eyes to be opened". It was their act of disobedience for sin to now reign in every heart of every man, woman and child since that infamous day. Because I see so much evil today and all of it can be traced back to Adam and Eve I am angry at them.

Jesus said on the cross just before he died, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit". It was one of the greatest acts of obedience the world has ever known. The fact that Jesus went to the cross, suffered and died shows us that he was completely committed to his Father's will. And all those who give their lives to Christ are now in his Father's will as well. The power that Jesus had to go to the cross is the same power that rose him from the grave. It is the same power that overcomes sin and death. Paul tells us in Romans 1 that we have that same power in Jesus Christ. Sin no longer controls us or defines us. We now have the power to be obedient to God.

So I look around at the world and I see all the evil things that are taking place. It is so easy for me to be angry at someone else for all the problems in the world. The truth is they are my fault as well. It was also my sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. My sins are also done in direct disobedience to God. And now, He calls me to be a light unto the world around me so that others might see that light of Christ in me and repent and turn their lives



over to live in obedience to God. When I am disobedient to him men are not seeing him in me. Maybe God has called me to go talk with my neighbor who is hurting- and I did not. Maybe God has called me to go mow the lawn of the mother of four around the corner from me whose husband left her- and I did not. Maybe God was calling me to go share his Good News with the drug dealers across the street at the park- and I did not. Maybe many of the evil things I see around me are still there because I was disobedient to God.

But, I am only one person. So, when the church is not obedient to God in all the things he is calling us to do, the world does not see his light. Men remain in darkness and do the evil things they do. Our salvation in Christ is not just for heaven. It is for the here and now. It is for us to give up our lives in complete obedience to him. That is why Jesus says we need to deny ourselves and take up his cross and follow him. Our sins and acts of evil are forgiven through the obedience of Christ to his Father on the cross. If we hope to see evil ended one day here on earth maybe it is time to stop blaming others and look at ourselves and ask, are we being obedient to him in the world around us? Do we say in our hearts daily, Father, into your hands I commit my life?

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