

Devotions with Matt

April 11, 2020

A NOT SO QUIET DAY

It seemed like a quiet Saturday 2000 years ago. The Friday Passover meal was completed, Scripture had been read, prayers to God in thankfulness for the Exodus were lifted and blessings pronounced on each family member were spoken. Now it was Saturday morning. It was Sabbath. People rested and lounged about and ate meals that were prepared the day before. All seemed to be quiet on the streets of Jerusalem that day.

It was quiet for the Disciples as well. Their Messiah had been crucified the night before. The one they followed for three years, given up so much of their lives for and who they had pinned all their hopes on, now lay dead in a tomb. They hid in a room for fear of those who had killed Jesus. Would they come after us too? The streets outside the room were quiet as they listened for anyone approaching. All was quiet for the moment, but it was not restful for them. They sat around the room in quiet disbelief and grief.

It was also not a quiet day for Jesus. Yes, His body lay in a tomb, but His spirit was busy. Somewhere between the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed to have this heavy cup be taken away from Him and the Cross, the sins of the world were placed on Him. Maybe it was in the Garden where it happened. He did begin to sweat like drops of blood as He steeled His nerve to do His Father's Will. Maybe the sins of the world were placed on Him just before He was beaten and mocked. Because of our sins, God's full wrath was poured out on Him. Maybe it was just before the nails went into His hands and feet or even maybe while He hung on the Cross between heaven and earth.

At some point on that faithful Good Friday, our sins were placed on Him. He was beaten and crucified for them and now He lay in a tomb. It seemed quiet to all those nearby, but Jesus was up to something. Sometime on that quiet Saturday, He took those sins somewhere far away. Some believe that He delivered them in Hell where they belong. All we know is that "as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). Jesus took our sins upon Himself that Good Friday and on Saturday He took them far away. As Billy Graham once said, "Jesus took our sins and threw them to the bottom of the ocean and then posted a sign that says no fishing".

Our sins were forgiven through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on a Friday 2000 years ago. The next day our sins were buried and gone. Although it may not be a quiet day for us today, we can rest assured that we are forever released from the judgment and bondage of them. We can rest in His forgiveness.

For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. ~ 2 Corinthians 5:21

Forgiven and Free,

Matt

