

Devotional Blog

GOOD FRIDAY

It's 4pm on a Friday afternoon, the end of the working week and your attention is turning towards the weekend. You've been waiting since 8am on Monday morning for this moment. As an old advert used to state, "thank crunchie it's Friday"!!

So, what does the next couple of days have in store? Meeting up with some friends on Friday evening, supermarket shopping on Saturday morning, some leisure activity in the afternoon (maybe a football match for me!!). Then church on Sunday, followed by a roast lunch. Relax in the afternoon then it hits you, right between the eyes, it may only be 4pm on Friday afternoon, but 8pm on Sunday evening will soon come around.

Sunday evening – prepare lunch boxes for work and the children, as well as making sure everything else was ready for Monday morning. I used to dread Sunday evening, when I worked for American Express. It was time to prepare for the Monday morning commute and everything that was associated with it!!

All that seems a lifetime away at the moment. There doesn't appear to be such a thing as a weekend anymore. With our movements being restricted because of covid-19, all the days seem to be the same. Weekends seem to be a thing of the past.

The build up to the Easter weekend this year will be like no other. Normally we would be anticipating a church full of flowers and people celebrating Jesus' rising from the grave on Easter morning. We, of course, are still able to mark this miraculous event individually. We can also join, with others now we have the wonders of modern technology, but it won't quite be the same.

The last week of Jesus' earthly life was preparation for the events of the weekend. Monday, He cleared the temple – Mark 11:15-18, Tuesday was a day of controversy and parables – Mark 11:27-13:37. Wednesday, there is nothing recorded, so maybe it was "at leisure" in Jerusalem, as the travel itineraries say. Thursday, was Passover and the Last Supper – Mark 14:12-26. Then it was the weekend and the rest they say is History.

Although Jesus' disciples had been on the road with Him for the last three years or so, they were still unprepared for what was going to happen on Friday and even less so for the events of Sunday morning. Following the Passover meal and Jesus' betrayal the disciples went into hiding, except for Peter. Peter followed, at a distance, so he could see what was happening to his Master. He may as well have gone with his mates as he only ended up getting upset with himself, because he denied he even knew Jesus.

If His followers only knew as He was being led away to be crucified that "It was only Friday, but Sunday was coming"!!

This video and song captures it much better than I can write it:-

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8gx6_rGLz20

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-45SWEuKTpw>

When Good Friday arrives and we mark it appropriately, with reflection and gratitude that Jesus suffered the torture and humiliation because of His love for all mankind, including you and me, we can do so in the knowledge that

IT'S ONLY FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY IS COMING

Hallelujah – what a Saviour!!

Paul Barker

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