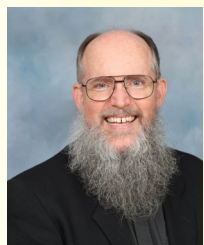


Good Friday Homily Rerun: April 14, 2017 - Fr. Bill

Good Friday 2017: “Do You Want What You Deserve or What God Has Made Possible?” - Fr. Bill



HEAVEN! “It is not a question of what we have done to deserve it, but what God has done to make it possible.” (author unknown) Welcome to Good Friday.

In today’s first reading (Is 52:13-53:12) Isaiah says, “See, My servant shall prosper, He shall be raised high and greatly exalted.” He foretells Jesus crucifixion, death and subsequent resurrection; and foreshadows St. Paul’s, “May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Gal 6:14)

At the end of the reading Isaiah says, “He shall take away the sins of many, and win pardon for their offenses.” This reminds us that Jesus didn’t go through all this because sin is not a big deal. He didn’t go through it because “I’m okay, and you’re okay.” Jesus embraced the suffering of Good Friday because through original sin we are born into a dysfunctional family and He desires to set us free from the dysfunction of sin.

In the second reading (Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9) we read, “Son though He [Jesus] was, He learned obedience from what He suffered; and when He was made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.” Jesus has made eternal salvation possible “for all who obey Him.”

In today’s Gospel (Jn 18:1-19:42) from the cross Jesus cries out, “I thirst.” He thirsts for you and for me, and only you and I can quench His thirst.

The second reading also says, “So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.” This is what Good Friday is all about. When we venerate the cross in a few minutes, we will be approaching the throne from which the King of kings dispenses all grace.

The Title of This Homily Is: Do You Want What You Deserve or What God Has Made Possible? The Point of This Homily {and of Good Friday} Is: Jesus Died on the Cross to Forgive What You Deserve & to Make Possible That for Which He Thirsts.

Easter 2017: “A Surge of the Heart” - Fr Bill

At the Easter Vigil we have nine readings from Sacred Scripture. On Easter Sunday we have three more. All these readings are about the many ways God shows His love for us, not the many ways we reject God’s love and refuse to love both Him and each other. Receiving these readings with eager attention provides a wonderful opportunity for prayer {as different from prayers}: “*For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look toward heaven; it is a cry of recognition and love; embracing both trial and joy.*” (Saint Therese of Lisieux) These readings offer the awe necessary for the ‘*surge,*’ the vision of the ‘*simple look,*’ the insight needed for the ‘*recognition,*’ the love given which elicits a response of ‘*love,*’ and the Godly acknowledgement of our ‘*trials*’ and ‘*joys.*’

In these readings we see God’s love for us made incarnate and given in the person of Jesus, the Christ.