### THE YEAR OF INTEGRITY

# BULLETIN

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**'LITTLE DID THEY** KNOW': GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION

Bethany International Church

#### Vision

To be a "House of Prayer for all nations" - Isaiah 56 :7b

#### Mission

A praying and witnessing church who have a close personal relationship with The Lord, to change the world for the glory of the Lord.



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#### 180

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## **'Little did they know': Good Friday reflection**

By KJ

Good Friday is one of the most popular events in Christianity, at least the second one after Christmas I suppose. Like the common major celebrations, it's easy to be swept away by the busyness of life (or even church activities for some) and miss the most crucial aspect of the grand story: The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In this short article, I would like to share my short reflection approaching Good Friday this year. I find writing this helps me to savour Christ more and I hope reading this will have the same effect for everyone.

#### The suffering Servant

The Israelites were waiting for a Messiah to deliver them from the Roman empire. The tyranny of the Roman empire was unbearable. Year after year, they wonder who it is, the man from the line of David that will resurrect the kingdom of Israel. But none seems to rise up.

But then there was this Man who claimed to be the one, the Messiah, the King of the Jews. His name is Jesus. Of course, with all the wonders and miracles, He must be the one who brings back the good old days, like the Davidic era. Though the majority doubted and even rejected Him, still the anticipation grew as the crowds shouted,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Perhaps, they may have pictured the triumphant Israel over the Romans, they

may have looked back to the Mosaic era of the great ten plagues. Whatever it is, they imagine that this is the long awaited moment - the redemption from the Romans.

And then we all know what happened: Jesus died on the cross.

What an anticlimax - the hauled hero is crucified among the criminals.

Instead of shouting a victorious chant, he cried out, "My God My God why have You forsaken me?"

Instead of calling for a legion of soldiers, he said, "It is finished."

It was dark. They went home, terrified.

Little did they know, He is truly the Messiah. The Messiah is the suffering Servant. They missed the prophecy that said the Messiah has no beauty and majesty to attract us to Him. They ignored that the Messiah was silent when He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. Small wonder then, that some disciples walked downcasted on their way to Emmaus. Their hopeful expectation and excitement shattered at the cross.

But that's not the end of the story. The death of Jesus accomplished a far more important mission than to deliver Israelites from the Roman oppressions. Instead, Jesus' death redeems us from a far more cruel and evil oppressions, the kingdom of darkness and the slavery of sin.

By His death, our sins are defeated and we stand righteous in His sight. He paid the penalty of our sins and we are free from the condemnation and wrath of God.

#### Ironies of the cross

"THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS" As it is written above His head.

"Hail, king of the Jews!"

They made fun of Him, thinking that their humour was ironic.

"If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

They ridiculed His power, thinking that they were appropriate to the helpless man.

"He saved others, but he can't save himself!"

"So he is the King of Israel, is he? Let him come down from the cross right now, and we will believe in him!"

They mocked Him, thinking that He healed the sick, fed the hungry, exorcised the demons, or even raised the dead yet He couldn't help himself at the execution.

Perhaps, there are more insults, mockery, afflictions than we can ever imagine.

Little did they know,

He is truly the King of Kings. He is above all rulers and authorities. Kingdoms rise and fall under His sovereign hand.

He is the most powerful being. He set the moon and the stars in their place. He created the entire universe with His words.

He saved others through the cross. But not the way they thought it would be. He saved us - the ones who shouted, "Crucify him!" - from the wrath of God.

What an irony.

#### 'It is finished'

At the appointed hour, He cried, "Tetelestai", and the curtain was torn in two. Perhaps, we will not fully understand the significance of the event. We may not truly grasp the time when approaching God is the matter of life and death. At best, we can only learn it from the book of Leviticus.

Finally, they saw it. "Surely he was the Son of God!," they exclaimed. But they were terrified. I suppose some of them wished he was not the Son of God after that event.

#### But, we know

They missed the true and deeper meaning of the cross of Christ.

But, by the grace of God and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we know. I know.

We know the concealed truth and beauty behind that most gruesome execution.

Have we ever wondered why we know it and why couldn't they see that? This question alone is worthy of our lifelong reflection.

If we know that we have been redeemed and freed from the slavery of sin, Let us therefore put to death the deeds of the body and not offer any part of our body as members of wickedness.

If we know that He is the King of Kings, yet He died for us,

Let us therefore submit wholly to His authority and trust His good plan for our lives.

If we know that we have been reconciled with God,

Let us approach the throne of grace with boldness and confidence that we may find help in our time of need.

May the beauty of the cross shine upon our hearts during this Good Friday season.





# MINISTRY LIST

Vocal – Jessica Sutiono Musician — Raynaldo Ali Multimedia — Budi Sendjaja Lighting — Budi Sendjaja Sound – Steven Santika Usher - Elbert Pranoto Translator - Elbert Pranoto Caring — Felix Hariyadi Dancer — Priska Sunaryo Drama — Jennifer Chandra Sunday School — Reinetta Tanujaya Hospitality - Tasmin Ifah Intercessor — Monica Haryanto Mission — Felix Chietra Media Art – Sonia Pranatha Community Kitchen — Yolanda Tjong Cultivated Podcast – Ravello Satria Youth - Rio Susanto

Christ went more willingly to the cross than we do to the throne of grace.

THOMAS WATSON