

A Good Friday Message from Kay:

Note: All Bible references are NIV

It seems that everyone at the crucifixion wanted a miracle. The soldiers mocking, 'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself', the unrepentant criminal, 'Save yourself and us!' The mourning women at the cross and the fearful disciples all wanted a different ending to the story that day when Jesus was hung on the tree.

Jesus could have saved himself, but instead he chose to do His Father's will. In **Matthew 26: ⁵³Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?** Jesus knows that His death is the sole means by which we are redeemed.

There is only silence; there is no rescue, no miracle to prevent the Son of God from dying. It appears as though He has been forsaken by his heavenly Father. When he breathes his last and the curtain of the temple is torn, then some realize what has truly happened. If Jesus is to save others, he cannot save himself.

Earlier, in his act of washing his disciples' feet, Jesus has shown himself to be a servant, even though he is their teacher and leader. In going to the cross, Jesus, ministry is culminated in the ultimate act of service- bringing salvation to a fallen people. Just as the curtain tearing removed the barrier to the Most Holy Place (where God's presence dwells), so Jesus, by taking on our sin, has forever removed the barrier between God and us.

Paul later addresses this act of love in his ministry. **Romans 3:²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,^[i] through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.**

Paul reassures us in **Romans 5: ⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person**

someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

On Good Friday, we usually remember Jesus' crucifixion and death in a somber church service. Even though we are not in church, our remembrance of these events is deeply personal. The circumstances this year make it even more personal, rather than communal. His acts of love and sacrifice are everlasting, regardless of the changing world around us.

Amen