

Portraits of a Savior; THE CRUCIFIED SAVIOR - Good Friday 4/3/26

Tonight we slow down at the cross

The cross is not just the setup for the resurrection.

The resurrection declares that it worked. The cross is where it happened.

Good Friday invites us to pause...to linger...to look closely at the masterpiece at the center of Scripture.

The Problem We Could Not Solve

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."— Romans 3:23

"For the wages of sin is death."— Romans 6:23

Sin creates a gap between us and God that we cannot close ourselves. You cannot pay a debt you don't have the currency for. So Jesus stepped in.

"The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

— Isaiah 53:6

Our sin. His shoulders.

Our debt. His payment.

The Word That Changed Everything

"It is finished."

— John 19:30

Jesus' final word on the cross: **Tetelestai**

One word. Four meanings.

1. An Artist's Word

The masterpiece is complete. Nothing more can be added.

2. A Commercial Word

Paid in full. The debt is gone.

3. A Legal Word

Sentence served. Justice satisfied.

4. A Priestly Word

Sacrifice accepted. Nothing else is needed.

"By a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified."

— Hebrews 10:14

Tetelestai means:

It's fulfilled. It's complete. It's enough. It's Finished!

When the Rocks Cried Out

"The curtain of the temple was torn in two..."— Matthew 27:51

The curtain separated humanity from the presence of God.

At the moment Jesus died: The curtain tore. The earth shook. The rocks split.

Creation itself responded to the death of its Creator.

The barrier between you and God was removed.

"If these were silent, the very stones would cry out."— Luke 19:40

And five days later...They did.

What the Cross Means for You

Because of the cross:

Your debt is paid

Your sentence is served

Your sacrifice is accepted

Your access to God is open

“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith.”

— Hebrews 10:22

Not:

Try harder

Do better

Earn your way back

Just:

Draw near

Your Good Friday Response

Ask yourself:

- **Have I received what Jesus finished for me?**
 - **Am I still trying to carry a debt that has already been paid?**
 - **Am I treating the cross as a symbol... or a turning point?**
 - **What does it look like for me to draw near to God this week?**
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The Invitation of the Cross

The curtain is torn. The way is open. The debt is paid.

Tetelestai = It is finished.

Don't just remember Good Friday. **Let it mark you.**