

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Message by: Jesus' Holiness, Saint Dikeji Daniel Miyeji, the Bishop of the whole world

Text: Luke 23:39-44, John 19:28-30,

Date: Friday, 2nd April, 2021.



Jesus was killed for us and the day he was crucified is called a “Good Friday.” It is not out of place to call the day Jesus Christ was killed a “Good Friday.” This is because, it is the day of our freedom; the day those who accept him are set free from their sins. But for those who refuse to accept him, it is a bad Friday.

Romans 8:12, GNB says, ***“There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit, which brings us life in union with Christ Jesus, has set me free from the law of sin and death.”***

Our Lord Jesus Christ was nailed to the cross with condemned criminals who had no hope of life. He was nailed inbetween criminals to show that he was also a criminal which he was not. Seeing the suffering the son was going through, God,

the father became angry and was about to act. But Jesus cried out to Him and said, "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do."

One of the criminals who were doomed for death was saved after begging the Lord to remember him when he comes as king. Imagine; someone who was in agony had the heart of mercy. He saved the criminal who was already condemned to death. Though Jesus himself said no one can enter God's kingdom without being born of the spirit and water, he gave the criminal the room of salvation. What a good luck! This also reveals that there is no one that is too bad for the Lord to save.

Jesus is a wonderful counselor. On the cross, he counseled the mother and John the divine. He said to the mother, "Mother, behold your son" and to the son, "Son, behold your mother." Jesus comforted them in their tears.

God is a holy father. When he saw the son carrying the heavy load of sin of man, he could not bear it. He turned his face away from Jesus and there was darkness upon the earth. Jesus Christ, feeling the absence of God's presence with him, he cried out, "Father, why have you forsaken me!"

On the cross, Jesus was thirsty and needed to take water. Knowing that it was time to give up the ghost, he said, "I am thirsty." Rather than being given water, the wicked killers gave him vinegar. After taking the vinegar which represented man's sins and all its bitterness, he said it is finished. Finally, he committed his spirit into the hands of the father. "Father, into your hand, I commit my spirit," he said.

For our sake, Jesus was made a curse so that the blessings that come from God through Abraham may be ours.

Galatians 3:13-14, GNB *"But by becoming a curse for us Christ has redeemed us from the curse that the Law brings; the scriptures says, 'Anyone who is hanged on a tree is under God's curse.' Christ did this in order that the blessing which God promised to Abraham might be given to the Gentiles by means of Christ Jesus, so that through faith we might receive the Spirit promised by God."*

Now that Jesus has paid the price for us, what are we to do? We are to obey Christ. May we live to give God praises and glory.