

GOOD FRIDAY 2020
MEDITATION – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
FATHER CRAIG LOONEY
CROSS EXAMINATIONS



Cross Examinations: Stations of the Cross (*)...is the title of a Lenten devotional booklet by former *Living Faith* creative editor James E. Adams. The *Stations* are presented in a compelling way...with Jesus speaking to us from his heart.

Mr. Adams admits taking some poetic license in presenting the *Stations of the Cross* in the first person. Holy Scripture, he points out, records Jesus saying very little on his journey to the cross.

Today we are incorporating part of *Cross Examinations* into our Good Friday meditation. We are asked to reflect and meditate on what the Stations of the Cross mean to us personally...as we too mark each step Jesus takes toward our Redemption.

Our meditation today focuses on the Fourteenth and final *Station of the Cross*...Jesus' burial. Following is the text from John 19.38-42 (GNB)...

...After this, Joseph, who was from the town of Arimathea, asked Pilate if he could take Jesus' body. (Joseph was a follower of Jesus, but in secret, because he was afraid of the Jewish authorities.) Pilate told him he could have the body, so Joseph went and took it away. Nicodemus, who at first had gone to see Jesus at night, went with Joseph, taking with him about one hundred pounds of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes. The two men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the spices according to the Jewish custom of preparing a body for burial. There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been put to death, and in it there was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. Since it was the day before the Sabbath and because the tomb was close by, they placed Jesus' body there.

We know the story of Joseph of Arimathea wanting to get Jesus buried quickly before the Passover began. There was no time to waste. Mr. Adams has Jesus speaking directly to us: he tells us even in death he had no place to call his own here on earth...he didn't even own his own burial plot.

Mr. Adams' meditation on the Fourteenth Station is all the more poignant when we consider the other things he has Jesus telling us he borrowed...

*...I was always borrowing things, from the very beginning of my incarnation.
...I borrowed Mary's womb.
...I borrowed a crib in Bethlehem.
...I borrowed Peter's boat to preach from.
...I borrowed a donkey to ride on.
...I borrowed bread and wine to make by body move and blood flow in history.
...I borrowed thorns, wood and nails to redeem the universe.
...Why should my burial be any different?*

Most of us have borrowed something from a friend or neighbor or family member. The borrowing comes with the expectation that we will return what we borrowed in kind...or perhaps with something even better.

But there is always the danger when we get into the habit of borrowing things...we run the risk of taking people for granted...we might forget to return what we borrowed...and a friendship is ruined.

Let's listen to what Mr. Adams has Jesus saying...

*...I will go on borrowing things until the end of time, until I have borrowed them all and made them holy.
...I will also borrow you. You will be my tongue and my throat, parched. You will be my hands and feet, nailed. You will be my head, thorned. You will be my side, lanced. You will be my body, stripped. You will be my corpse, buried.
...And when the borrowing is over, you will be my brothers and sisters, risen.*

Cross Examinations...Stations of the Cross... is really about cross-examining ourselves as we walk with Jesus to the cross. Let the words of Jesus in Mr. Adams' compelling meditation speak to our hearts...and move us not to be afraid to let him borrow our hearts, minds and souls.

This is what makes today GOOD Friday.



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