

GOOD FRIDAY (2025)

As a result of Adam's sin, the human race could no longer live in friendship with God. There was now a great wound, a horrible spiritual injury that we could do nothing about, that we could not fix on our own. Furthermore, our own personal sins simply made matters worse. We had put to death our spiritual life, and no payment, no sacrifice, no offering, nothing from us could make things right ...

But why? Why couldn't we make things right?

Because sin is not like an offense or a wrong or an injury between two people. Instead, sin is an offense that man commits against His God, and because God is infinite in both glory and majesty, any sin by us is more serious, much more serious in fact, than any offense between two people could ever be.

And then there is this ... God is love. That means sin is not simply an offense against almighty God who is the Creator of all things in heaven and on Earth, but sin is in essence, the rejection of love itself.

Now justice demands that to repair the damage done by sin and to restore the relationship between God and man, a sin offering would be required. However, that sin offering would have to be something worthy of God. That offering would need to be a gift of infinite value.

But where would we get that kind of gift? None of us has that kind of gift. No man has that kind of gift. Not only that, but at some level, everything we have, everything we possess, everything, has come from God. That means even if we did give something back to God, we would only be giving back to Him something He had already given to us.

For centuries, the Israelites sought reconciliation with God. They sought a restoration of their spiritual lives. On a daily basis, they offered sacrifices in the Temple. They sacrificed bulls, and lambs, and doves and grain from the harvest. Teams of priests offered sacrifice after sacrifice, but for the reasons I have just mentioned, none of these could satisfy the debt that was owed.

However, just as a loving father will sometimes pay for damages caused by his son, so too God the Father, our loving Father, would arrange to pay for the damage caused by our sins, and He would do so by sending to us His beloved Son.

His Son would be our sin offering, but there was a problem with this plan. You see, the Son of God did not have the power to die. Death, which is the separation of body and soul, can only happen to creatures that have a body, and since the Son had no body, He could not die.

So here's the amazing thing. Not only would the Father send His divine Son to restore us to life, but He would also make us part of the solution. Through the Incarnation, the divine Word, He who was, is, and always will be, would take on our human nature. He would become flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. That way, He would be able to offer His life on

our behalf. That way, He would be able to die, and furthermore, because He was God, His death would have infinite value and be holy and pleasing to the Father.

This is how the Son would give us life. He would first share with us and then enable us to share with Him. Saint Augustine puts it this way: We gave Jesus Christ the power to die, and by His death He gave us the power to live.¹ This is true love. Love which we in no way deserve. So, as we gaze upon the Cross today, let us be ever grateful for that love and give our own love to the Lord in return. Amen.

¹ Office of Readings, Monday of Holy Week.