



Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

- Luke 23:34

DEVOTIONAL

Good Friday strips away the myths.

God is not distant. God is not indifferent. God is not impressed by power. God is on a cross.

The prayer Jesus prays from that cross is not a denial of what is happening to him. It is the clearest picture of God's heart we have ever been given. Human cruelty meets mercy that refuses to become cruel in return. This is not a weakness. This is something we do not have a good word for.

I wonder what images of God I carry that Good Friday quietly corrects. The God who punishes quickly. The God who only loves the deserving. The God who watches from a safe distance.

On Good Friday, God is not at a safe distance. God is inside the worst of it. God absorbs what we do to one another and still holds the door open.

This day is heavy because love is heavy. Not soft or sentimental but stubborn and faithful. The cross is not God demanding suffering. It is God refusing to let suffering have the final word.

I wonder how God might be meeting me in my own pain right now. Not with explanations. Just with presence. The cross does not answer every question. But it answers the one that matters most on the hardest days. You are not alone in this.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Hold five minutes of silence today. No music. No multitasking. Just sit with the cross.

CLOSING PRAYER

Crucified Lord, stay near. Keep me from rushing past suffering, mine or anyone else's. Plant Your mercy deep in me, and hold the world You love. Amen.



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