

Good Friday – The Day Jesus paid the price for my Healing

The church wants us today to converge our attention to these two pieces of wood joined together. As we stand before the wood of this cross, at least three things we should ask ourselves:

1. **What is this cross?** We know it, it was an instrument of death invented by the Persians, then adopted and widely promoted by the Romans. The cross was formed from the concept that earth will be cursed, if the culprit's blood fell on earth. So, the one condemned was thrown and abandoned to the cross. The most cruel way to kill someone, world has ever seen, its inventors & Romans never used it for their own citizens.
2. **Who is on this cross?** The most innocent person in the world. As Jesus himself said: 'who can accuse me or attribute guilt on me'? (Jn 8:45) (Remember, after detailed interrogation, Pilate himself declares: "I did not find any guilt in him"; or Roman centurion proclaims: "truly, he was a just man")
3. These two un-unifiable factors, the most cruel death machine and the most innocent man, can never be joined together. Then **why did they get unified?** Here is the point that requires our focus today. *"Through his wounds, we were healed"*. OUR HEALING is the only reason that caused unifying these contradictory, ever un-unifiable factors.

Therefore, the question we should ask ourselves before the cross is, "am I enjoying the Healing, the Well-being that Jesus desired and gained for me?" This is not an optional thought, but obligatory.

One can think, what is the problem if I want to walk with my wounds. But we know, the one who doesn't want to be healed is the one who always makes his surroundings harder. In short, *'to be healed'* is a part of my choice, part of my responsibility. *There is a 'way of the cross' to healing*, as we prepare for the veneration of the cross. We need to keep a few thoughts in our mind, inspired from the cross.

1) Have a philosophy for your life: *Think favorably for others*. Even at the dying moment on the cross, Jesus thought not about his pain, but about others.

"Father, they know not, what they are doing, forgive them". (once a man, crossing the compound, happened to walk over the garden of flowers and plants.

Someone pushed him back onto the walkway, with anger. But he was blind. Later, this blind man told his children at home: "children, if someone walk across the

garden, don't hate him, perhaps he may be blind". Many who walk across our life, hurting, may be ignorant.)

What is ignorance? Not knowing what happens later to the one who is hurt. Judas, knew well till he betrayed Jesus; but then never thought what happened to the betrayed one, later. That's why he threw away the 30 silver coins and killed himself. *Think favorably*, means give a little space to other's ignorance.

2) *Sublimate your negative experience*. Our bitter experiences in life, should help us to develop positive attitude to life. The story is said about the soldier who pierced the side of Jesus, was partially blind. The blood that gushed from Jesus' heart healed his eye. Many might have wounded you. *You can recover those who wounded you, from the love that flows from your heart*.

3) *It is ultimately 'Grace'*. These thoughts alone may not lead you to healing. In moments of life's real trials, thoughts alone may not help; it may facilitate healing. It is then that you should look at the cross. Ultimately, healing is 'His business'. If someone wants to understand you, he should pass through the experience you went through. (*Eg. You will understand your parents better, if you have passed through some of the experiences they went through*). He who has gone through the extreme point of my sorrow, will understand me the best.

What suffering is there that Jesus has not passed through, from womb to tomb? Poverty? Loneliness? Depression? Abandonment? "My heart is sorrowing to death", he says, (as if he felt to commit suicide). He went through every kind of - physical, emotional, social and moral suffering humanly imaginable.

(Ps. 121) "My help comes from God, and not from humans". Always remember that Healing is God's own intervention. Because he can understand us. For the past 2000 years, for the badly wounded humanity, the hope that this suffering servant offers is, "*He can understand me, he can pass through any pain that I have passed through, he can heal me.*" Even at the extreme point of my suffering, there is a love that wraps me, envelopes me and embraces me. (Like Mary, the love at the foot of the cross, helping Jesus to pass through peacefully, like a child). This is the light behind the cross.

B&S, this is the good news of the cross. Anyone who looked at him was enlightened. Was healed. I would like to conclude by saying, 'The ultimate reference of my sorrows in life is crucified Jesus, knowing he alone can heal me'. Take me Lord, to that love that warps me in the most painful moment of my life. Amen!